

Jacksonville, FL Silicon Times Report

Silicon Times Report
"The Original Independent Online Magazine"
(Since 1987 - Our 11th Year)

May 08, 1998

No.1418

Silicon Times Report International Magazine
Post Office Box 6672
Jacksonville, Florida 32236-6672

R.F. Mariano, Editor
STR Publishing, Inc.
Voice: 1-904-292-9222 10am-5pm EST
FAX: 904-268-2237 24hrs
STReport WebSite <http://www.streport.com>
STR Publishing's FTP Support Server
14gb * Back Issues * Patches * Support Files
(Continually Updated)
<ftp.streport.com>
Anonymous Login ok * Use your Email Address as a Password
Check out STReport's NEWS SERVER
news.streport.com

Have you tried Microsoft's Powerful and Easy to Use Internet Explorer 4.01?
Internet Explorer 4.01 is STReport's Official Internet Web Browser.

STReport is prepared and published Using
MS Office Pro 97, WP8, FrontPage 98, Homesite 3.01
Featuring a Full Service Web Site
<http://www.streport.com>
Voted TOP TEN Ultimate WebSite
Join STReport's Subscriber List receive STReport
Via Email on The Internet
Toad Hall BBS 1-978-670-5896

05/08/98 STR 1418 "Often Imitated, Never Surpassed!"

CPU Industry Report	Ameritech Raises Rates	Borland now INPRISE
USENet Profit Centers?	Adobe Photoshop 5	Runaway Government
NEW Powerbooks Ready	Intuit back with MAC	IMAC to Debut
Win98 POISED for RTM	People Talking	Classics & Gaming

MICROSOFT WARNS WALLSTREET
REPUBLICAN SENATORS BATTLE OVER MICROSOFT
BOB DOLE CALLS VIAGRA 'GREAT DRUG'

STReport International Magazine
Featured Weekly
"Accurate UP-TO-THE-MINUTE News and Information"
Current Events, Original Articles, Tips, Rumors, Gossip and Information
Hardware - Software - Corporate - R & D - Imports

Please obtain the latest issue from our Auto Subscription, Web Site or FTP Site. Or, read STReport Online in HTML at our Website. Enjoy the wonder and excitement of exchanging all types of useful information relative to all computer types, worldwide, through the use of the Internet. All computer enthusiasts, hobbyist or commercial, on all platforms and BBS systems are invited to participate.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

STReport, with its policy of not accepting any input relative to content from paid advertisers, has over the years developed the reputation of "saying it like it really is". When it comes to our editorials, product evaluations, reviews and over-views, we shall always keep our readers interests first and foremost. With the user in mind, STReport further pledges to maintain the reader confidence that has been developed over the years and to continue "living up to such". All we ask is that our readers make certain the manufacturers, publishers etc., know exactly where the information about their products appeared. In closing, we shall arduously endeavor to meet and further develop the high standards of straight forwardness our readers have come to expect in each and every issue.

The Publisher, Staff & Editors

Florida Lotto - LottoMan v1.35
Results: 05/02/98: three of six numbers with no matches

From the Editor's Desk...

The weather is marvelous, the outdoor grill is doing wonderful things and the pool is simply shimmering night and day. Florida is the way to go. At least I think so.

I began an opinion essay last week that is to run for a few weeks with, I'm certain, some very interesting reader input. This week, we take a look at Senator Orrin (The Hatchet) Hatch and the Florida Attorney General, Robert Butterworth's decision to "look into Microsoft and Windows 98".

Windows 98 is facing a brace or two of politically minded AG and DA state offices around the country. Somebody outta tell these geeks to run on their own dime and not try to skate into a reelection at the cost of the computing industry across this nation. Take a look at our essay about unchecked runaway government. It began last week and will continue for a few more.

Ralph

http://www.streport.com
ftp.streport.com
news.streport.com
ICQ#:1170279

STReport is now ready to offer much more in the way of serving the Networks, Online Services and Internet's vast, fast growing site list and userbase. We now have our very own WEB, FTP and NewsGroup Sites, do stop by and have a look see. Since We've received numerous requests to receive STReport from a wide variety of Internet addressees, we were compelled to put together an Internet distribution/mailing list for those who wished to receive STReport on a regular basis, the file is ZIPPED, then UUENCODED. Unfortunately, we've also received a number of opinions that the UUENCODING was a real pain to deal with. You'll be pleased to know you are able to download STReport directly from our very own FTP SERVER or WEB Site. While there, be sure to join our STR AutoMailer list which allows a choice of either Reading Online or Graphics Rich HTML.

STReport's managing editors DEDICATED TO SERVING YOU!

Ralph F. Mariano, Publisher - Publisher, Editor

Dana P. Jacobson, Editor, Current Affairs

Section Editors

Mac Section	Shareware Listings	PC Section	
ted	Help Wanted	R.F. Mariano	Help Wan
	Classics & Gaming	Kid's Computing Corner	
		Dana P. Jacobson	
Frank Sereno			

STReport Staff Editors

Michael R. Burkley	Joseph Mirando	Victor Mariano
		Vincent P. O'Hara
Glenwood Drake		

Contributing Correspondent Staff

Jason Sereno	Jeremy Sereno	David H. Mann	Angelo Marasco
--------------	---------------	---------------	----------------

Donna Lines Brian Boucher Leonard Worzala Scott Dowdle

Please submit ALL letters, rebuttals, articles, reviews, etc., via E-Mail w/attachment to:

Internet: rmariano@streport.com
STR FTP: [ftp.streport.com](ftp://ftp.streport.com)
WebSite: <http://www.streport.com>

STReport Headline News
LATE BREAKING INDUSTRY-WIDE NEWS
Weekly Happenings in the Computer World
Compiled by: Dana P. Jacobson

Microsoft Warns Wall Street

As Microsoft Corp. goes, so goes the economy, was the warning implicit in a letter fired off by the company to Wall Street last night.

Microsoft's letter warned the a delay of its Windows 98 operating system, due next month, could have "broad, negative consequences not just for Microsoft but for the entire PC industry." The letter, authored by Microsoft Chief Financial Officer Greg Maffei, was sent to about 150 stock analysts, software companies, and venture capitalists. It appears to be part of a continuing public relations campaign by the company to ward off antitrust threats.

A group of states is expected this week to file suit against the company, charging it with violations of anti-trust statutes. Last week, a group of PC company executives wrote the U.S. Department of Justice on the company's behalf, asking the government not to block the release. Maffei said in the letter that he wanted to "outline the possible financial ramifications of such regulatory action."

PC companies, software resellers, and independent software vendors would all be hurt by a delay, Maffei said. because so much effort and money has already been spent in anticipation of the software release.

However, analysts have said that Windows 98 is not expected to as much of a driver in PC sales compared to its precursor, Windows 95.

Microsoft Letter Urges No Windows 98 Delay

Microsoft released a letter late on Thursday signed by the heads of 26 computer software, hardware and retail outlets asking antitrust chief Joel Klein not to delay the release of Windows 98.

"Government intervention into the launch of Windows 98 would endanger

what we have all worked for, and harm consumers and the economy too," said the letter to Klein, who heads the Justice Department antitrust division.

The Justice Department and 13 state attorneys general are considering taking some action against Microsoft before Windows 98 is sent to computer makers in mid-May, Connecticut Attorney General Richard Blumenthal has said.

However, it is unclear if the authorities would make any attempt to block or alter Windows 98.

They might instead seek to alter contracts under which Microsoft offers Windows 98, so computer makers would have more flexibility, sources have said.

The letter's signatories said they were concerned that the federal government might try to delay Windows 98 itself. It is scheduled for release to the public on June 25.

"We -- and many other companies in the PC industry -- have spent millions of dollars developing, marketing and promoting products and services that depend on the on-time launch of Windows 98," the letters' signatories said.

They said that any delay would undermine their ability to sell their products in the back-to-school season.

The letter was signed by the presidents or CEO's of such companies as AMD, CDW Computer Centers, Compaq Computer, CompUSA, Dell Computer, Hewlett-Packard, Intel, Micron Electronics, OfficeMax, Packard Bell NEC, Sony Electronics and Symantec.

Republican Senators Cross Swords On Microsoft

Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch attacked Microsoft Friday and was in turn attacked by a senator from the company's home state, Slade Gorton, in an escalating battle between the two senior Republicans.

Gorton called remarks about Microsoft by Hatch "nonsensical" and said he was "completely outraged" by them. Hatch was not immediately available to respond.

The barbs on Capitol Hill again reflected an increasingly tense atmosphere surrounding Microsoft as state attorneys general -- and possibly the Justice Department -- are on the cusp of filing new legal action against the software giant.

At issue Friday was a letter to the Justice Department's top trustbuster, Joel Klein, written by 26 high-tech executives.

The letter, released by Microsoft, asked the government to permit the release of the Windows 98 operating system without delay next month.

It is unclear that the government would attempt to delay Windows 98 in any actions it might bring, analysts said.

Hatch, of a Utah, said through a spokeswoman the letter made it appear

"that Microsoft is contacting potential witnesses and urging them to voice public opposition to possible law enforcement actions."

Hatch, his spokeswoman said, found it "troubling that the target of an investigation might be using its relationship (with computer makers and others) to encourage (witnesses) to participate in a public relations campaign seemingly designed to frustrate legitimate efforts to enforce the laws."

Gorton responded to his fellow Republican with unusual fury.

He said through a spokesman he was "completely outraged that the chairman of the Judiciary Committee would suggest that 26 high-tech CEOs should not be able to exercise their First Amendment rights and defend themselves against unwarranted intervention."

And he said that for Hatch to "presume that he knows more about the high-tech industry and what they need than the 26 CEOs ... is nonsensical."

The letter was signed by the presidents or CEOs of such companies as Compaq Computer, CompUSA, Dell Computer, Hewlett-Packard, Intel, Micron Electronics, OfficeMax, Packard Bell NEC and Symantec.

Said a Microsoft spokesman: "The letter speaks for itself." The spokesman said Hatch may have been "misinformed" about the letter.

The context for the letter is apparent imminent government action against Microsoft before Windows 98 is distributed to computer makers in mid-May.

Connecticut Attorney General Richard Blumenthal and others said this week that a filing against Microsoft by attorneys general and the Justice Department could happen in the next week or two.

The federal and state governments are investigating allegations that Microsoft used monopoly power to force its products on computer makers and others.

Gates Met With Justice Lawyers Tuesday Night

Microsoft chairman Bill Gates met with senior Justice Department officials Tuesday night, as a possible new antitrust action against the software company loomed, the Wall Street Journal reported in today's electronic edition.

Gates sought the meeting with lead antitrust prosecutor Joel Klein to make a personal and direct presentation of what would be at stake in any new antitrust suit, the Journal said, citing two unnamed people familiar with plans for the meeting.

The meeting comes as Klein nears a decision on whether to pursue a broad Sherman Act antitrust case against Microsoft.

The suit, if it proceeds, would allege that Microsoft acted illegally to protect a monopoly for its ubiquitous Windows operating system for computers and to extend that dominance into new markets in its attack on Netscape Communications' Internet software, the paper said, citing people close to the case.

Officials from Microsoft and the Justice Department refused to comment to the paper.

Earlier Tuesday, Gates had appeared in New York with Microsoft supporters in an effort to rally broad support against any government action that might delay the release of Windows 98, the latest version of the operating system.

Microsoft CEO Takes Windows 98 Case To The Public

Microsoft Chairman Bill Gates, whose company is the target of several antitrust investigations, warned that any government action to block release of its Windows 98 operating system software could hurt the U.S. economy and cost jobs.

Flanked by a phalanx of computer industry executives, Gates warned such a move against the newest version of the company's flagship software would hamper innovation and could have a devastating effect in and beyond the computer industry.

"Any government action that would derail or delay Windows 98 would hurt the American economy and would cost American jobs," Gates said at a "rally" organized by Microsoft at New York City's Equitable Building. "The effect would be profound and would ripple through the economy."

he speech was Gates' most direct response to what he called the "serious consideration" government attorneys are giving to a plan to delay Windows 98.

To buttress his case, Gates turned to several top industry executives, including Eckhard Pfeiffer, president of Compaq Computer, the world's biggest personal computer maker.

Pfeiffer said Compaq and the entire PC industry had "a large stake in the introduction and success of Windows 98," a product many industry executive hope will help spark new life into recently sluggish sales growth.

Pfeiffer and computer retailer CompUSA Chief Executive Jim Halpin also noted that many companies have already sunk millions of dollars into early marketing efforts linked to the June 25 scheduled release of Windows 98.

But the display of solidarity was immediately seized on by opponents who assembled outside to argue the affair was more evidence of Microsoft's grip on the computer industry.

"When you are that reliant on a company that has a stranglehold, it's not surprising that you would go along," said Ed Black, president of the Computer & Communications Industry Association, a Washington-based industry lobby representing Microsoft's foes.

Connecticut Attorney General Richard Blumenthal echoed those sentiments in a statement released after the rally.

Blumenthal, who last week said he and 12 other state attorneys general

were "on the cusp" of bringing an antitrust lawsuit against Microsoft, declined to say on Tuesday exactly what action the states were considering.

However, he did say the argument that Windows 98 is "absolutely essential" to the PC industry would "seem to support the view that Microsoft has excessive dominance that constitutes a stranglehold."

A federal lawsuit against Microsoft is also a possibility, and some believe the states and federal government could move jointly against the Redmond, Wash.-based software giant.

In seeking to rebut the argument of his company's power over the marketplace, Gates steered the focus repeatedly to the topic of innovation rather than focus on the topic of whether or not Microsoft enjoyed monopoly status.

A demonstration of the software that preceded Gates' remarks -- and which went without a hitch, in contrast to a recent crash-plagued demo handled by Gates himself in Chicago -- highlighted some of the new Windows features designed to address the needs of disabled customers.

One such feature allows users to magnify parts of the screen for easy reading, for example.

Microsoft also introduced Gregory Mankiw, a Harvard University economics professor, who argued against government involvement in the computer industry.

"The computer industry is not broke, and the government should not try to fix it," Mankiw said, adding intervention would be like "throwing sand in the gears" of progress.

Borland To Change Name, Sets New Product Strategy

Borland International, one of the most storied software companies, said it plans to change its name to Inprise to reflect a new corporate strategy and product focus.

Borland -- once the third-biggest personal computer software company in the world and a serious threat to Microsoft -- said it now would focus its business on so-called "middleware" software products, which act as translators between different types of hardware and business software.

Borland will introduce several products later this year that the company said would make it easier for corporate computer networks to share vital business information.

"The name Inprise is a way to identify ourselves with new markets, a new customer base and a new strategy," said Del Yocam, Borland's chief executive and chairman. "This is a new company."

The company's name will be changed to Inprise on June 5, pending shareholder approval. It also will get a new stock symbol, "INPR," on the Nasdaq market.

Borland, based in Scotts Valley, Calif., is best known for its computer programming languages and tools. Its software products help professional programmers write other software.

In the early 1980s it grew rapidly and dominated the software development tools market, once Microsoft's main cash cow. It was such a threat that it prompted Microsoft Chairman Bill Gates to write an infamous memo directing his troops "to kill Philippe," referring to Borland founder Philippe Kahn.

But Borland stumbled badly in the early 1990s by making several unwieldy acquisitions. Microsoft also countered Borland's gains by slashing prices of its own development tools, forcing Borland to follow. Until last year, Borland had been reporting plummeting sales and big losses for several years.

To find new sources of revenue, Borland has acquired smaller software companies that specialize in middleware, a \$2 billion software market that is growing at about 40 percent a year, according to market researcher International Data Corp.

"Borland is a great tools company, but they had been stuck there" because of competition with Microsoft, said Ted Schadler, senior analyst at market researcher Forrester Research. "The middleware market is growing so quickly that they have good prospects."

Yocam said he planned to double his company's revenue in three years to about \$500 million a year, with at least 50 percent of sales coming from its new product lines.

The company also said it established a services unit that will help big companies write software based on its new products.

Ameritech Raises Internet Access Rates

Ameritech said today effective June 1 it will raise the price of unlimited access to the Internet via its Ameritech.net service, with the new monthly rate increased to \$21.95 from \$19.95.

The annual price for unlimited access will rise to \$213 -- equivalent to \$17.75 a month -- from \$189. The basic monthly rate of \$8.95 for 10 hours of usage will remain unchanged, Ameritech said.

Prices for Ameritech's unlimited access using ADSL (asymmetric digital subscriber line) or ISDN (integrated services digital network) technology remain unchanged at \$49.95 a month.

Ameritech joins other Internet Service Providers in raising rates or changing price programs. America Online, also raised its monthly rate to \$21.95 from \$19.95 in February.

"We have to keep up with the marketplace, but really we've invested a great deal in our Internet network," said Ameritech spokesman Geoff Potter.

Ameritech said it will increase its investment in its Internet access network by 66 percent over 1997, to upgrade its infrastructure in order to keep up with increased usage. Potter said the company does not disclose actual investment numbers.

The number of Ameritech.net subscribers has doubled in the past six months, the company said, and average session length per customer has

grown by 30 percent.

In addition, Ameritech has invested in 24-hour-a-day customer service and technical support for its Internet access customers. The company said it increased its service center staff by about 50 percent over the past six months.

Digital Copyright Bill Moves Ahead In U.S. Senate

Legislation to protect copyright material on the Internet passed the Senate Judiciary Committee after a series of amendments soothed groups that had threatened to block the measure.

The Digital Millennium Copyright Act would implement two international treaties adopted in 1996 by the World Intellectual Property Organization to protect everything from software to movies and music available online.

Once the implementing legislation is adopted, the Senate can proceed to formally ratify the treaties.

Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch said after the vote that he would move for swift passage by the full Senate. A similar bill is pending in the House of Representatives but that version lacks many of the compromises incorporated into the Senate bill.

"It is essential to protecting American creativity abroad," the Utah Republican said.

Opposition to the bill had centered around provisions making online service providers liable for copyright infringements and a section prohibiting disabling of hardware or software anti-copying protection.

But new language added to the bill pleased high-tech groups that had opposed earlier versions.

"The current Senate language strikes the proper balance," said Rhett Dawson, president of the Information Technology Industry Council.

Gary Klein, vice president at the Electronic Industries Alliance, said that while the amendments appeared to rectify flaws in the bill, his group would need to see language from the committee in a report that will accompany the bill.

"If the report language is satisfactory, we have agreed not to actively oppose the bill," he said.

Sen. Pat Leahy, Democrat of Vermont, and Sen. John Ashcroft, Republican of Missouri, worked to draft the revised online liability section.

The amended provision included four "safe harbors" granting online service providers immunity from liability for copyright infringements by others over their networks.

Trying to Turn Usenet Sites Into Profit Centers

If Deja News and Talkway are right, there's a big new revenue opportunity in old communities. The two companies hope that by opening up the often-arcane world of Usenet computer bulletin board groups to the Web,

they'll be able to find profits where other community-builders have found only red ink.

"The hardest thing about creating an online community is building critical mass," says Rich Simoni, Talkway's vice president of technology.

Next month, Talkway (<http://www.talkway.com>) will launch a Web-based gateway to 15,000 of the most active Usenet groups, each of which has its own built-in constituency.

Deja News (<http://www.dejanews.com>), based in Austin, Texas, was the first company to identify the commercial potential of colonizing the 20-year-old Usenet system of Internet message posting. It set up a searchable archive of Usenet posts in 1995 and has been adding features rapidly, including the ability to customize a view of Usenet, and, this week, spam-free email from WhoWhere.

But the niche that Talkway and Deja News have identified is a small one, and analysts aren't sure of its potential profitability.

"It's a fairly specialized space," observes Chris Charron at Forrester Research. "There's not room for that many players, and it's pretty dependent on advertising and commerce deals. But I do give both companies points for making Usenet easier to use."

Sunnyvale, California-based Talkway is optimistic about selling highly targeted ads around Usenet content for premium rates-up to \$80 per 1,000 ad impressions.

And it has signed commerce deals with companies like Barnes & Noble and Cyberian Outpost. Users of the Talkway service will see book recommendations, for example, that are tied to the topics of the groups they participate in.

Talkway offers Java and HTML Web language versions of a newsreader that lets users easily participate in Usenet. (Talkway is still beta-testing its product.)

It's designed, according to marketing director Carlos Tribino, to be a sort of Usenet Yahoo, guiding users to a Seinfeld group, for example, without requiring them to know that the group's official name is alt.tv.seinfeld. From there, users can post messages, read messages posted by others, and even rate the posts they read.

With Talkway, you can label a post as "spam," "adult," "flame," or "thumbs up," to help guide fellow users. And Tribino points out that Talkway uses Usenet's native NNTP protocol, unlike Deja News, so posts show up faster on the system.

Deja News is enjoying its first-mover advantage, though. Marketing vice president David Wilson says his company has already attracted 4.5 million users, and plans to continue adding new features rapidly. Deja News also plans to add non-Usenet content to its database.

"You can expect us to pick up and aggregate more and more discussion sources," says Wilson. "Usenet is not going to be the only source of discussion to Deja News."

And he doesn't sound cowed by Talkway's imminent entry into his niche.

"They will be some sort of competition," Wilson says dubiously, before scoffing at Talkway's mention of \$80 cost-per-thousand ad rates: "That's really stretching the upper bounds." He added that Deja News would continue to rely on banner advertising for the bulk of its revenue, and expected to be profitable soon. Both Deja News and Talkway are privately held companies.

For its part, Talkway doesn't think it will be competing head-to-head with Deja News once it launches. "We see our service as different from Deja News," explains Tribino. "Talkway is about real-time participation, not searching Usenet. We have a great search tool, but it's only a means to an end. That end is to make it easy and friendly for people to participate in Usenet."

Charron at Forrester sees that as a noble goal. "As the Web audience becomes more diverse, in terms of technical expertise and background, they'll need a simpler interface to Usenet, and both of these companies provide that," he says.

But like all advertising-dependent companies, Charron expects Talkway and Deja News to stagger-rather than stride-toward profitability.

"I don't think opening up Usenet is going to be like striking gold," he says. "It's difficult to make money through advertising, and these companies will have to endure some red ink for a while." They'll also have to learn how to introduce ads and sponsorships to Usenet without offending the sensibilities of a traditionally anti-advertising populace.

Marc Smith, a sociologist at the University of California, Los Angeles who studies Usenet culture, says that Deja News and Talkway aren't the first companies to make Usenet more accessible. The biggest influx of new users, according to Smith, happened when America Online granted Usenet access to its subscriber base. "That was the biggest tsunami ever to hit Usenet," Smith says.

But he applauds the introduction of more sophisticated tools for searching and participating in Usenet. "Tools like this are great," Smith says. "Usenet would not go away without a Web front-end, but the merger of the Web and Usenet bodes well for both. The Web needs Usenet for content."

Deja News Has Plan to Bolster "Spam" Defenses

In response to customer complaints of spammers "harvesting" private email addresses from its postings, the Web-based Usenet service Deja News is providing free buffer email accounts to its users.

By creating Deja News-specific mail accounts, the service says it can filter spam using those addresses. Since last December, the service has been filtering spam from Usenet postings -- which can be as much as two-thirds of postings, Deja News says -- and will apply similar filters to the new email service.

The hope, said David Wilson, Deja News vice president of marketing, is that Usenet posters will no longer exclude their email address or use a mangled address to fend off spammers.

And "if spam does get through, at least it won't get through to their permanent email address," Wilson said. He emphasized that though the

free email can be used for general purpose correspondence, the move is not meant as an entry into the ever-expanding free email market.

Disney's On the Web Prowl

Fee fi fo fum. Look out Web, here Disney comes.

The Walt Disney Co. is making a big play for the Internet, one that could push aside already established Internet brands and lead to more subscription-based sites on the Web.

Though it's been criticized for being slow to embrace the Internet at first, lately the company's been marching into cyberspace with gusto. Thursday, Disney signed a deal to purchase the final stake in Starwave, a company that manages Web traffic and runs sites such as ESPN SportsZone.com and ABC News.com. And on Tuesday, CEO Michael Eisner said Disney plans to partner with a company to become a gateway to the Web.

"That's definitely in the future," said Diane Passarelli, a spokeswoman for the Disney Online division, though she declined to elaborate. "We want to make it easier for people to go online, to get services they now get from other outlets."

Disney already holds a gateway position in the television arena through its ownership of Capitol Cities Communications Inc., which runs the ABC network.

A TV-like Web And some analysts think the Web of the future will resemble television more closely, with only a handful of network-like gateways where people go first, to get things like news and weather before going off to roam the Net.

"There will be two or three places where people start at on the Web," Alexis DePlanque, senior research analyst at Meta Group, said. "If you can lock in mindshare, then you can leverage that to make money later."

Indeed, portals are power -- or at least they have the potential to be -- as more and more companies are discovering. Heavyweights such as Microsoft Corp. and Netscape Communications Corp. already have announced plans to provide their own gateways, from which they can direct traffic to their other Web sites.

In addition to its proposed gateway, Disney also can direct people online through its traditional entertainment ventures, theme parks, and networks -- and sell its product on the Internet.

"It'll attract a lot of mainstream people to the Web," Zona Research Inc. analyst Jim Balderston said. "Who knows better than Disney how to leverage content? These guys are masters at cross-promotion."

Show Mickey the money Disney's increased move into the online arena also could spark more subscription-based sites. Already the company runs Disney's Daily Blast, one of the only kids sites to charge for content.

And the company eventually could leverage more of its authentic Disney characters -- as well as sought-after sites such as SportsZone and ABC News -- into cybercash.

The company's current online ventures include Disney Daily Blast, the Starwave ventures, and Disney.com -- a site launched in 1996, where the company updates viewers on Disney news, sells products, and entertains kids with activities such as chats with Jiminy Cricket. The company's online ventures make up the most-visited conglomeration of mainstream sites on the Web.

But until recently, Disney has waited on the sidelines while smaller Internet-based firms -- such as Yahoo!, Infoseek and AOL -- made major inroads into the Web. That's not an unusual scenario in cyberspace.

"Once they cut the path and take all the lumps and get bit by the alligators and snakes, guess who's going to follow them up the river? Companies like Disney," Balderston said.

Now that Disney has discovered the Web is an environment where companies can survive, and even thrive, it's making it a priority.

A guessing game CEO Eisner's announcement that it would soon partner with a major Internet company has sparked a guessing game in the industry.

Scoring Disney would be a major coup for any up-and-coming Internet company because of the company's high-profile brand name. And it could spell trouble for those left out of the deal.

"Really, the question is not what can Disney offer these companies? But what are these companies going to offer Disney?" Meta Group's DePlanque said.

Potential partners include: Infoseek, a company that could provide Disney with much-coveted searching technology; Yahoo!, which would give Disney plenty of eyeballs; or even Netscape, which recently announced its own plans to become more consumer-focused even as it strikes its own deals with major search companies.

But others aren't so sure that Disney has what it takes. Viacom already has made a strong play in the children's online market with its Nickelodeon unit, teaming up with AOL for the America Online Kids Only Channel.

One source at AOL said Disney needs to buy a large company, not just partner with one, if it wants to become a major player.

Apple To Launch New PowerBooks This Week

Apple Computer is expected to introduce a new line of PowerBook computers at a press conference Wednesday, in a much-needed refreshment of its current notebook computer line, analysts said.

Apple will introduce new Powerbooks designed around its G3 processor -- code-named Wall Street -- with a wide range of options and prices expected to start around \$2,250 for the lowest-cost model.

The systems will also include the fastest PowerBook to date, with a 292 megahertz PowerPC chip.

"They haven't refreshed them since November," said Lou Mazzucchelli, a Gerard Klauer Mattison & Co analyst.

"There could be all sorts of other stuff too," Mazzucchelli said, adding that Apple could also unveil another online store, but one targeted specifically to the education market.

"It would allow teachers and school systems to build to order (Apple products) on the Web," he said. Apple has had some success selling Macintoshes and other products over the Internet at its Apple Online store since November.

"It will stem the defection, certainly," Mazzucchelli said of Apple's declining share of the education market.

A spokesman for the Cupertino, Calif.-based company declined to comment on unannounced products.

Apple may also provide more details about its acquisition on Monday of some video editing technology from Macromedia, which analysts said they believe is "Final Cut," Macromedia's video editing suite.

Apple did not provide any details in a statement late Monday on the acquisition, except to say that it acquired technology from Macromedia to enhance future versions of its QuickTime multimedia content authoring and playback software.

Daniel Kunstler, a J.P. Morgan analyst, said Apple could also provide some details on its anticipated consumer products for later this year, but he added that he is only speculating.

Intuit Says Mac Quicken Version Born Again

Intuit Tuesday announced it would continue to support and develop Quicken for the Macintosh, reversing an announcement made just weeks ago.

In April, Intuit stunned Mac loyalists and fueled the speculation of Apple doomsayers when it said it would discontinue development for the Mac of the world's most popular personal finance software.

Intuit credited the reversal to a dazzling presentation by Apple execs: "Now, having seen what Apple is planning for consumer products, we're thrilled to announce renewed support for the Macintosh," said Intuit senior vice president Mark Goines in a statement.

The announcement bolsters the credibility of Apple interim CEO Steve Jobs, who two weeks ago assured Apple shareholders that he would bring Intuit back into the fold. "We didn't get into Intuit's face and tell them how we plan to re-enter the consumer market," he said, before making assurances that he would do just that.

PDA Sales Boom

While there has been a lot of talk about handheld IT products, both computers and PDAs, up until Q4, the market was not that larger nor robust. However, since that time sales volumes have continued to grow, not by percentages, but multiples over prior year numbers. This astounding growth has created a true business for the companies that participate, and one in particular.

Looking at sales growth, most of our InfoBead Insider indices look at growth rates between 10 and 40 percent, however in the most recent quarter, sales of handhelds were 400 percent of Q1 1997 volumes! This shows that the market is still in an upward vortex, and I don't expect the purchase index to drop under 2.0 until Q4 of this year at the latest.

What's also really interesting in the handheld market, is that vendor positioning is not behaving as it normally does in such a dynamic market. Usually in very fast growth markets, share tends to be somewhat spread out among a number of vendors. Sometimes it's a case of lack of manufacturing capacity for a single firm, and sometimes it's the inevitable product leapfrogs that occur as more and more vendors are drawn by one of the few IT markets, where 100 percent growth is a disaster, not a blessing.

But that's not the case here. 3COM/USR's Pilot line has consistently had share at or near 50 percent of the market. In point of fact, the company has been above 50 percent for the last four months running. Only Sharp has shown the ability to challenge, and that happened only in the month of February.

Other than that, no competitor has been able to consistently drive share above 15 percent for more than a month or two.

Is this another Microsoft? Will Pilot become to PDAs what Kleenex are to Tissues? Only time will tell, and you can bet that I'll be watching how this part of the business shapes up at InfoBead Insider.

Oscar Winner Titanic's Special Effects Dramatize Sizzle of Alpha Power For Business Computing

Digital Overshadows SGI's Hollywood Presence

They may not realize it, but the millions of movie-goers thrilled by Titanic, which last night captured the Oscar for Best Special Effects, have seen the future of special effects wizardry. Further, Titanic's jaw-dropping special effects provide compelling evidence of a dramatic shift in Hollywood's choice of computing tools, on which audience-appealing cinematic effects increasingly depend.

Titanic, history's biggest box office hit and winner of 11 Oscars, vividly illustrates how Digital Equipment Corporation), Maynard, Mass., is quickly becoming the first vendor to successfully challenge Silicon Graphics (SGI) in the technology-hungry computer generated imaging (CGI) market. Many of the now-famous "How did they do that?!" special effects were made possible by image rendering and film compositing solutions based on Digital's 64-bit Alpha computing platform.

"Digital congratulates everyone associated with Titanic," said Jesse Lipcon, Digital vice president, UNIX and OpenVMS Systems Business Unit. "It's fitting the film that smashed all-time box office records should showcase the blockbuster performance of Digital's Alpha technology. Titanic demonstrates clearly the performance and reliability advantages of our 64-bit solutions." Ironically, in an era when audiences have come to equate special effects with images such as super-realistic aliens and human morphing, Titanic may for the first time call attention to what many see as the next wave of special effects -- those the viewer can't perceive, such as Titanic passengers strolling on deck, gorgeous sunset backgrounds, and the din of the engine room. These and other "invisible" special effects in Titanic were created using some of the

world's most powerful computing applications.

Lipcon added, "Hollywood is just one of the many places showcasing Digital Alpha systems. Look behind the scenes and you'll find Alpha speeding complex data mining, powering compute-intensive data modeling, and driving many of the world's largest and most popular Websites." For example, the same level of performance Alpha delivers to technology-hungry CGI creators also enables corporate managers to make split-second business decisions based on "mining" of competitive gems from massive, diverse data stores.

To meet its film debut deadline, Hollywood's Digital Domain studios, which oversaw the entire CGI production for Titanic, came to Digital. "When you look at the grand scenes of the ship in Titanic, you're not seeing just a picture filmed by a camera - you're also seeing hundreds of gigabytes of data," said Scott Ross, president and CEO of Digital Domain. "Without the Alpha systems, we knew that compositing the frames would take far too much time. In film-making, as in any other business, time is money, and that's why we chose the Alpha platform."

The computing power of Alpha is enabling CGI staffs across Hollywood and beyond to be more creative and work faster and at lower cost than ever before. In addition to Digital Domain, creator of Titanic, Terminator 2-3D, Apollo 13 and many other feature films, such studios as Kodak Cinesite (Sphere, Jerry Maguire, Space Jam, Batman & Robin) and Santa Barbara Studios (An American Werewolf in Paris) are moving rapidly to exploit the performance advantages of Alpha for some of computing's most taxing applications. Other studios include Threshold Entertainment, Area 51, indimension3, Mass Illusions, and Netter Digital, which is producing all the new episodes of the TV series Babylon5 with special effects powered by Alpha.

Building a ship the size of Titanic is a massive undertaking, whether on a sound stage or on a computer. To render the visual effects of the ship and its thousands of passengers during Titanic post-production, Alpha-based workstations and server systems crunched through terabytes of data. Digital Domain relied on the power of more than 200 Alpha processors running 24 hours a day for two straight months, averaging an astounding 800 million computer instructions per second.

Looking to the future, the advent of new media, such as high-definition television, or HDTV, and the "digitalization" of the broadcast studio, requires a level of computing performance available today only from Alpha. For example, many broadcasters are implementing the "virtual set," eliminating the need for expensive studio sets for programs such as sports analysis programs, talk shows, and other productions. By rendering a backdrop in real-time, solving parallax and "front/back" issues with a computer, they can generate electronically a very realistic, economical, easily altered "set."

Only Digital offers both UNIX and Windows NT rendering solutions. Digital is the only player in the plug-and-play rendering market of SGI compatible UNIX systems that also offers a Windows NT solution using the same system. Customers can purchase a Digital UNIX Alpha solution today knowing that, if they decide to implement a Windows NT rendering solution in the future, the same Alpha hardware can run Windows NT applications.

Software providers such as Softimage, Discreet Logic, Silicon Grail, Cinema Graphics, Eyeon Software, Lambsoft, Modern Cartoons, and others

are porting to Alpha systems on Digital UNIX or Windows NT for the power and value Alpha solutions give their customers.

Digital Equipment Corporation, recognized for product and service excellence, is a leading supplier of high-performance, Web-based computing solutions that help enterprises compete in the global marketplace. Digital gives its customers a winning Internet advantage through a comprehensive portfolio of Internet solutions based on award-winning systems, advanced networking infrastructure, innovative software, and industry applications - including those from business partners. The expertise and experience of Digital employees help customers plan, design, implement, manage and support Internet solutions in countries throughout the world. For the latest company information, visit Digital on the World Wide Web at: <http://www.digital.com> and/or <http://www.newsdesk.com>

The e-home: It's the Shelter of the Future

The home of the future will be packed with cool bells and whistles, many of which will be nestled tidily behind walls and powered by high-bandwidth wires and souped-up circuit boards.

The future promises faster Internet links, networked computers that talk with intelligent appliances, conveniences, energy savers and devices to keep family members entertained and connected, experts say.

Here's a glimpse at some features of the home of the future, coming to a home near you in an estimated three to seven years: *Virtual birthday parties with faraway relatives and friends would be possible courtesy a TV videoconferencing system connected to the Internet via high-speed wires.

*Intelligent appliances would be able to communicate with the home computer network if its task is complete, or if the appliance malfunctions. For instance, the basement clothes dryer would be able to alert the person watching an upstairs PC or TV that the clothes are dry. Sensors would detect an extra dirty wash load, and compensate with added cleaning power.

*Lights and audio systems would be controlled by a central touchpad, and also would be adjusted by a remote control. The home's control center would be alerted when owners leave the house, automatically reducing the thermostat.

*The control center would be able to communicate with outside entities such as the National Weather Service, so that when rain is forecast, the homeowner would be alerted and the sprinkler system could be turned off and the windows closed remotely.

Here it comes "We're envisioning home automation, home monitoring and security, inventory and shopping aids, and intelligent books, games and appliances," said Ken Lim, senior futurist for CyberMedia Convergence Consulting in Cupertino, Calif. Lim next month will release his "Interactive Opportunities in the Home, 2001" research about the home of the future.

Technology and appliance companies, as well as such universities as Massachusetts Institute of Technology, are studying the possibilities and are working with manufacturers to make the house of the future a reality.

Some technologies, such as speedy networks and high-tech entertainment systems, are now being installed in high-end new constructions. In the future, even median-income homes will have their own ethernetets, with connections for computers in the kitchen, the home office, children's bedrooms and the family room.

The kitchen computer could bring up handy dinner recipes after the cook types in available ingredients, while the student can seek homework help over the Internet.

Give me more time "I want computing to take the tedium out of my day and leave me with the good stuff -- like more time for my family or for entertainment," said Suze Woolf, group program manager for Microsoft's home of the future prototyping team. Microsoft displayed futuristic vignettes at Comdex and Windows World last week in Chicago.

High-speed lines such as 1394 or coaxial will be wired to universal outlets throughout the house. Some companies are working on retrofitting copper "twisted-pair" wire for high-bandwidth usage, or developing wireless networks using radio frequencies, thereby eliminating the need for rewiring an existing house.

Beyond high-speed local-area networks, or LANs, those developing futuristic plans think the next step is to develop user interfaces between intelligent appliances and the networks.

"That's farther out in the future than networks," Woolf said. An example might be using a "low footprint" operating system such as Windows CE, which might connect the network to an intelligent washing machine. When a load of wash is "out of balance," a message may appear on the computer network, alerting the homeowner.

Refrigerators can't crash Lim warns that consumers won't tolerate computer crashes that disable the household. "I think PCs are incapable of doing (a home network). They are not robust enough to handle multiple elements," Lim said. "The network needs to be bulletproof -- as reliable as a refrigerator or phone. How often do they crash?"

Bringing intelligent appliances and other technologies mainstream are three to seven years down the road, according to experts. While high-tech wiring and technologies are currently only afforded by the rich, systems for the future will be targeted to middle-income households and will be conventional installations for new home construction.

A home multimedia system, which combines DVD, Web browsing, gaming, and high-speed data and telephone capabilities is well on its way to manufacturing this summer, according to Jeff Minushkin, president of Multimedia Convergence Corp., a Chicago-based technology firm.

MCC is developing the TV set-top device for a high-profile manufacturer, to be disclosed next month, and will retail for less than \$500, he said. Buying separate WebTV boxes, gaming devices and DVD players today would cost more than \$1,000.

Screen phones in 1999 Coming within 12 to 18 months are video screen phones, which would sell for \$500 initially and \$300 by Christmas of 1999, Lim said. The screens would be 3x5 or 6x9 inches.

"We're headed in a lot of directions for the home of the future," Lim said. "What you'll need is one device to handle the multiple elements. A simple and cheap network is important."

MIT Is Planning House of the Future

Massachusetts Institute of Technology is teaming up with technology industry giants to map out the home of the future.

In their sites they envision five to seven prototype homes to be built worldwide by 2001, which will shape the future of architecture, building materials and home-based technology.

MIT, which will make public next month its partnerships with key companies such as Microsoft Corp. (MSFT), Intel Corp. (INTC), Siemens, Procter.

A T T E N T I O N ** A T T E N T I O N ** A T T E N T I O N

LEXMARK OPTRA C
COLOR
LASER PRINTER

For a limited time only; If you wish to have a FREE sample printout sent to you that demonstrates LEXMARK Optra CSUPERIOR QUALITY 600 dpi Laser Color Output, please send a Self Addressed Stamped Envelope [SASE] (business sized envelope please) to:

STReport's LEXMARK Printout Offer
P.O. Box 6672
Jacksonville, Florida 32205-6155

Folks, the LEXMARK Optra C has to be the very best yet in its price range. It is far superior to anything we've seen or used as of yet. It is said that ONE Picture is worth a thousand words. The out put from the Lexmark Optra C is worth ten thousand words! Send for the free sample now. (For a sample that's suitable for framing, see below) Guaranteed you will be amazed at the superb quality. (Please.. allow at least a two week turn-around).

If you would like a sample printout that's suitable for framing... Yes that's right! Suitable for Framing Order this package. It'll be on special stock and be of superb quality. We obtained a mint copy of a 1927 Color Engraver's Year book. Our Scanner is doing "double duty"! The results will absolutely blow you away. If you want this high quality sample package please include a check or money order in the amount of \$6.95 (Costs only) Please, make checks or money orders payable to; Ralph Mariano. Be sure to include your full return address and telephone number. The sample will be sent to you protected, not folded in a 9x12 envelope. Don't hesitate.. you will not be disappointed. This "stuff" is gorgeous!

A T T E N T I O N **

A T T E N T I O N ** A T T E N T I O N

EDUPAGE STR Focus Keeping the users informed

EduPage Contents

Don't Block Windows 98, Say Vendors
Distance Education Threatens Small Regional Colleges
Amazon.com Acquires Movie Site
Power Companies Want To Be Internet Powerhouses
Internet Use On Company Time
CIOs Say E-Mail Is Key To Future Business
Kodak Teams With Intel For Digital Imaging
Disney Buys Starwave
Another FAQ On Essay Contest Eligibility
Congress Authorizes Internet Fee Collection
Senate Committee Moves Forward On Online (c) Bill
FCC To Scrutinize School Wiring Funds
Miller Publishing Gets Wired
Excite Inks Deal With Netscape
Lycos Links With AT&T
Economist Predicts Y2K Problem Will Cause Recession
@Home To Sell Pay-Per-Play CD-ROMs
IMS Standards For Online Course Materials
Intuit Reverses Decision On Mac Quicken
RealNetworks Denies Its Audio Streams Can Be Recorded
Intel To Build Research Facility In China
Dell, Cisco And U S West Team Up On PCs With Speedy Modems
Compaq Plans Job Cuts
Apple iMacs, New PowerBooks Hit The Market
AT&T Gets Excited Too

DON'T BLOCK WINDOWS 98, SAY VENDORS

Twenty-six computer industry executives, including the chairmen of Intel Corp., Micron Electronics, Dell Computer, Compaq Computer and Hewlett-Packard, have signed a joint letter urging the Department of Justice not to block the planned release of Microsoft's Windows 98 operating system. "Interfering with the release of Windows 98 would drag down the entire industry's efforts to deliver value to customers and returns to shareholders," said the letter. The executives were careful to point out that they weren't expressing "any opinion on the merits of the investigation of Microsoft." The upgrade is expected to be shipped to computer makers in mid-May and hit retail shelves on June 25. "The bottom line is, no computer manufacturer can afford to harm their relationship with Microsoft," says the president of the Software Publishers Association. "When Microsoft calls and asks them to write a letter to Justice, they're hard-pressed not to." (Los Angeles Times 1 May 98)

DISTANCE EDUCATION THREATENS SMALL REGIONAL COLLEGES

Small regional colleges are seeing a lucrative source of income continuing education courses that fill otherwise empty classrooms in the evening -- threatened by distance learning programs offered by larger, more well-known research universities. "The question is, How much more depth is there to the graduate and retraining market for everyone to succeed?" says the president of the Pennsylvania Association of Independent Colleges and Universities. "Private colleges have certain advantages -- one being that they have been in a particular market for years. But a small institution, all by itself, can never compete with the range of courses and convenient times that Penn State can offer, all with the support of state taxpayers." Meanwhile, Penn State's associate VP for distance education says Penn has no desire to "replicate well-established programs" offered by small schools in its state. "If we took that approach, students would pick the local institution over us." The university is planning to offer some 25 certificate programs via distance education with an enrollment of 5,000 students by 2003. (Chronicle of Higher Education 1 May 98)

AMAZON.COM ACQUIRES MOVIE SITE

Amazon.com has acquired three Internet businesses: the Internet Movie Database, which it plans to use as its initial entry point into online video sales, and European book retailers Bookpages and Telebook, which it will use to crack the European book market. Last week, the company announced it was developing an online music store to meet the demand for compact disks. (Financial Times 27 Apr 98)

POWER COMPANIES WANT TO BE INTERNET POWERHOUSES

Power companies are eyeing the Internet, hoping for a chance to use their long-held physical rights of way to deliver telecommunications services. Thursday, Interpath Communications, a subsidiary of Carolina Power & Light, announced it would merge with TriNet Services, a consulting and Internet development firm. "We are seeing companies with rights of way use them for telecommunications purposes in the Internet space," says an industry consultant. "Carolina broadened themselves from being a bandwidth or pipe, to being a provider of professional services. CP&L is following the lead of companies such as The Williams Co., which used its massive gas pipeline to string the fiber network that was later sold to WorldCom as WilTel. (Computer Reseller News 30 Apr 98)

INTERNET USE ON COMPANY TIME

A survey by Elron Software, developers of a program that allows companies to track the hits to every Web site visited by employees, found that 68% of workers logged on to pornographic sites at work, far more than other non-work-related categories such as news gambling and sports. Elron also found that just like subscribers to Playboy who claim they only read the articles, most employees say they use the Internet for business research. News sites were second at 30%, even though some employees need access to these sites for their work. (Toronto Star 30 Apr 98)

CIOs SAY E-MAIL IS KEY TO FUTURE BUSINESS

"E-mail used to be a convenience computing tool," said the CIO of

engineering firm Fluor. "Now interoperability is the theme; it's critical for messaging in the millennium." Other panelists at the Electronic Messaging Association conference last week agreed, pointing out that centralized directories would become more critical for electronic commerce, security and single sign-on. But before that happens there are several problems to solve, they agreed, including garbled attachments, gateway management tools, authentication and error messages. "If the error messages were in plain English, end users could figure them out without having to call the help desk," said the U.S. Agriculture Dept.'s Anne Thomson Reed, chairwoman of the messaging interoperability committee for the Federal CIO Council. (InternetWeek 30 Apr 98)

KODAK TEAMS WITH INTEL FOR DIGITAL IMAGING

Eastman Kodak has cut a deal with Intel Corp. to jointly develop and market digital imaging products, sharing patent licenses on products and splitting the cost of updating Kodak photofinishing labs with Intel equipment. The move expands an alliance begun in March 1997, when the two companies agreed to use each other's technology in digital imaging. Kodak and Intel plan to spend as much as \$150 million over the next three years building the consumer market for digital imaging products. (New York Times 1 May 98)

DISNEY BUYS STARWAVE

Walt Disney Co., which already owns a third of Starwave Corp., is buying the remaining two-thirds of the multimedia company and plans to incorporate it into its Buena Vista Internet Group. Sixty-seven percent of Starwave is currently owned by Microsoft co-founder and high-tech entrepreneur Paul Allen and Starwave employees. The two companies already operate several joint ventures, including the ABCNEWS.com and ESPN SportsZone Web sites. Disney chairman and CEO Michael Eisner says his company plans to be an "aggressive competitor" on the Internet. (Wall Street Journal 1 May 98)

ANOTHER FAQ ON ESSAY CONTEST ELIGIBILITY

There continues to be uncertainty about whether an entrant to our Student Essay Contest (see below for contest details) has to be enrolled as a student on the date the contest ends. The answer is NO. The main purpose of the eligibility requirement is simply to indicate that the contest is NOT intended for professional writers, senior executives, etc. Rather, the contest IS intended for people of all ages who are enrolled full-time or part-time in a formal learning program. Thus, if we get an essay from, let's say, Mr. Bill Gates, we will read it with interest, but we will NOT consider it eligible for the \$1,000 prize -- even if his entry is articulate, well-reasoned, insightful, and compelling. (And, for the record, we're sure it would be.)

CONGRESS AUTHORIZES INTERNET FEE COLLECTION

Congress has retroactively authorized the collection of a \$15 fee as part of Internet domain name registration, money that was then deposited in the Intellectual Infrastructure Fund. The fund, which was created in 1995 in an agreement between the National Science Foundation and Network Solutions, is now worth about \$56 million. Twenty-three million dollars of that fund has been earmarked for Next Generation Internet projects. The money has been tied up in a lawsuit filed by the American Internet Registrants

Association, a group of Internet service companies, which charged that the fee was actually a tax, being illegally collected without Congressional approval. "It's nice to get that money out of legal limbo," says Educom president Robert C. Heterick, Jr. (Chronicle of Higher Education 8 May 98)

FCC TO SCRUTINIZE SCHOOL WIRING FUNDS

The Federal Communications Commission, which created the U.S. Schools and Libraries Corp. to administer the wiring of U.S. schools for Internet connections, is beefing up its oversight of the new corporation as it begins to distribute funds to applicants. The Schools and Libraries Corp. has asked for \$2.02 billion to be paid out this year to schools and libraries that have applied for funding. The General Accounting Office recently criticized the FCC for over stepping its authority when it created the Schools and Libraries Corp. and the commission is now expected to announce plans for overhauling the corporation's administrative structure. (Wall Street Journal 4 May 98)

MILLER PUBLISHING GETS WIRED

Wired magazine has been sold to Miller Publishing Group LLC for a reported price of \$74 million. Miller also owns the alternative music magazine, Spin. Wired previously had tried twice to launch an initial public offering, both of which were canceled. Co-founder Louis Rossetto resigned as CEO last July, and in September gave up the post of magazine publisher as well. (San Jose Mercury News 4 May 98)

EXCITE INKS DEAL WITH NETSCAPE

Online directory service Excite will pay Netscape Communications \$70 million for the privilege of providing some of the search services that Netscape plans to make available to users of its home page. Excite hopes to recoup the investment through advertising on the pages it delivers to people using its search engine. Any ad revenue generated beyond the \$70 million will be shared by the two companies. The alliance between the two companies is aimed at unseating Yahoo!, which ranks as the most popular site on the Web. At the end of the two-year deal, Netscape and Excite could revert to full-fledged competitors, as both of them number among the top five most heavily trafficked sites on the Web. (New York Times 5 May 98)

LYCOS LINKS WITH AT&T

Search engine software maker Lycos is joining forces with AT&T WorldNet Service to provide Web search and other services to WorldNet customers. On Thursday, Lycos agreed to pay \$39.7 million for WiseWire, an Internet software company whose technology will enable Lycos to improve its search capabilities. "We are continuing to... narrow the distance between us and Yahoo! and AOL," says Lycos's CEO. Lycos currently ranks eighth in most frequently visited Web sites, trailing fellow search engines Excite and Infoseek. (Investor's Business Daily 5 May 98)

ECONOMIST PREDICTS Y2K PROBLEM WILL CAUSE RECESSION

In an op-ed piece, Edward Yardeni, chief economist and managing director of Deutsche Morgan Grenfell says that problems arising from the Year 2000

computer glitch could cause a major recession, as businesses fail and government agencies become incapable of delivering basic services, including tax collection, welfare payments, national defense and air traffic control: "The likely recession could be at least as bad as the one during 1973-74, which was caused mostly by a disruption in the supply of oil. Information, stored and manipulated by computers, is as vital as oil for running modern economies. If information is harder to obtain, markets will allocate and use resources inefficiently. Market participants will be forced to spend more time and money obtaining information that was previously available at little or no cost... Furthermore, a 2000 recession is bound to be deflationary. The U.S. may experience a \$1 trillion drop in nominal GDP and a \$1 trillion loss in stock market capitalization." (Wall Street Journal 4 May 98)

@HOME TO SELL PAY-PER-PLAY CD-ROMs

The @Home Network is planning to launch an online gaming business next year, capitalizing on its ability to deliver Internet access at higher speeds than many telephone-line-dependent competitors. The company would store CD-ROM content on its servers, and subscribers could access that content on a pay-per-play basis. "It's instant access over a broadband network using a broadband pipe," says the @Home manager for media development. A trial of the as-yet-unnamed service is planned for the San Francisco area sometime in late August or September, with commercial launch slated for early 1999. (Broadcasting & Cable 27 Apr 98)

IMS STANDARDS FOR ONLINE COURSE MATERIALS

Educom's Instructional Management System (IMS) project has released a set of standards intended to assist software and publishing companies in developing electronic teaching tools that will work together, regardless of origin. The details of the standards can be found at <http://www.imsproject.org/>. Mark Resmer, director of the IMS project and CIO at Sonoma State University, says the standards will "foster the development of a market in online learning." That market is estimated to reach \$3.2 billion in sales of online courses and tools by 2010. (Chronicle of Higher Education 8 May 98)

INTUIT REVERSES DECISION ON MAC QUICKEN

In a sudden about-face, Intuit says it will continue to produce its Quicken personal financial software for Apple Macintosh machines. A new version will be available in 1999, and in the meantime, Apple and Intuit will work together to promote Quicken 98, the latest version of the software. "We're delighted to have Quicken back on the Mac, and we look forward to working with Intuit on Quicken 98 and new products in 1999," says Apple interim CEO Steve Jobs. (PC Week Online 6 May 98)

REALNETWORKS DENIES ITS AUDIO STREAMS CAN BE RECORDED

RealNetworks has come under fire from the British Phonographic Industry, which has issued a warning to broadcasters that music played on the Internet using RealAudio software could be recorded using a widely available software called Audio Rack. RealNetworks has said its RealAudio software, which is used by 85% of Internet broadcasters, blocks users from saving audio streams as digital files. "Because we are not downloading the

whole file, the content is not resident on the hard drive," says RealNetworks' manager of consumer products. But BPI consultants say they "stand by their assertion that software in their possession will record RealAudio streams, irrespective of whether the record facility is enabled." Meanwhile, Virgin FM's webmaster says RealAudio streams could be converted into .wav files but only at the audio quality set by the Web server. In Virgin's case, that's 28.8 Kbps -- "not the equivalent of burning a CD." (TechWeb 7 May 98)

INTEL TO BUILD RESEARCH FACILITY IN CHINA

Intel is investing \$50 million over the next five years to build a research center in Beijing that will focus on developing Internet technology for Chinese-language applications. In addition, the company will open a \$198 million flash memory chip fabrication plant in Shanghai this week. (Investor's Business Daily 6 May 98)

DELL, CISCO AND U S WEST TEAM UP ON PCs WITH SPEEDY MODEMS

Dell Computer is teaming up with Cisco Systems and U S West to develop and market PCs with high-speed ADSL modems that run over ordinary copper telephone wires. The companies say the package deal -- comprising a Dell Dimension XPS PC, a Cisco modem and U S West ADSL (asymmetric digital subscriber line) Internet service -- will be available in some U S West markets this fall. Currently, U S West's ADSL customers must buy and install their modems at a cost of about \$300. "We hear all the time from customers that it's too much work if they have to put all the equipment together," says a U S West executive director. (Wall Street Journal 6 May 98)

COMPAQ PLANS JOB CUTS

As part of its restructuring after Compaq Computer's merger with Digital Equipment Corp. is completed later this year, Compaq reportedly plans to cut 15,000 jobs, or 28% of Digital's workforce. Although neither company would confirm the number, one executive, who asked to remain anonymous, says, "It's a real solid number." Analysts speculate that the cuts will focus on sales and services jobs, and that Compaq might shut down some of Digital's weaker businesses, like its line of computer workstations. Many of those who lose their jobs will be targeted for hire by Sun Microsystems, which is building a campus for 4,000 workers outside Boston, says Massachusetts' economic development director. "Many high-tech companies are salivating for those workers." (New York Times 7 May 98)

AT&T GETS EXCITED TOO

After announcing a couple of days ago that it was forming a major partnership with Netscape Communications, Excite Inc. says it's also planning an alliance with AT&T that will allow the telco to market its WorldNet Internet access service to Excite's online search directory users. Meanwhile, AT&T also just announced a similar deal with Excite rival Lycos. The recent flurry of activity reflects the growing consensus that cross-marketing deals between Internet service providers and so-called Internet portal sites are an effective way for both parties to grow market share. Similar deals include Sprint Corp.'s arrangement with

Snap! and MCI's agreement with Yahoo!. (Wall Street Journal 6 May 98)

APPLE iMACs, NEW POWERBOOKS HIT THE MARKET

Apple Computer has unveiled its iMac desktop machine, redesigned to appeal to the consumer market. The iMac sports a modern look, with its monitor, hard drive and stereo speakers all in one unit. The machine, priced at \$1,299, comes with a 4-gigabyte hard drive, 32 megabytes of RAM, a 15-inch monitor, 24X CD-ROM drive and 33.6-Kbps modem. Meanwhile, Apple's G3 PowerBook has also gotten a makeover, now equipped with a 233-MHz processor, 12-inch screen, 32 MB of RAM, 2-GB hard drive, 20X CD-ROM, for \$2,299. The PowerBooks are available now, and the iMac will ship in 90 days. (Net Insider 7 May 98)

STReport's "Partners in Progress"

Advertising Program

The facts are in... STReport International Magazine reaches more users per week than any other weekly resource available today. Take full advantage of this spectacular reach. Explore the superb possibilities of advertising in STReport! Its very economical and smart business. In addition, STReport offers a strong window of opportunity to your company of reaching potential users on major online services and networks, the Internet, the WEB and more than 200,000 private BBS's worldwide. With a readership of better than 200,000 per week, this is truly an exceptional opportunity to maximize your company's recognition factor globally.

(STReport is pronounced: "ES TEE Report")
STR Publishing's Economical "Partners in Progress" Plans!
"Partners in Progress" Program.. Call Today!

STR Publishing, Inc. (STR, STReport, CPU Report);

- * maintains a commitment to utilizing the power of the Internet and Web to keep computer users, worldwide, both private and commercial, informed of new trends in equipment, upgrade reports and future planning.
- * offers highly informative Hardware and Software Reviews, Press Releases, hands-on stories, user experiences and show reports.
- * presents the NEWS about new hardware, new software and how-to publications within HOURS of its being made public.
- * is dedicated to keeping the users informed of whatmyour company has to offer at incredibly, almost the moment its offered!
- * Will maintain the free status STReport has^ the very best value in online magazines today

Take full advantage of STReport's Exciting "Partners in Progress" Programs!

MAXIMIZE your Company's Presence Worldwide. TODAY!

Eighth Page	-\$10.00	per issue
Quarter Page	-\$20.00	per issue
Half Page	-\$40.00	per issue
Full Page	-\$80.00	per issue

Your company's color ad, as described/submitted by you or designed by us, will appear in STReport International Magazine. STReport is published and released weekly on Fridays Evenings. All sizes based on a full color, eight and a half by eleven inch page. Trade-outs and Special Arrangements are available.

Email us at

rmariano@streport.com

or, for quick action call us at:

VOICE: 904-292-9222 10am/5pm est FAX: 904-268-2237 24hrs

Or, write us at:

STR Publishing, Inc.

P.O. Box 6672

Jacksonville, Florida 32205

GOVERNMENT (STATE & FEDERAL) RUNNING UNCHECKED and DERANGED?

An Opinion

Part 2

By R.F. Mariano

We looked and Bork and Dole (The Dork Twins) last week If you'll remember, I remarked that Dole doesn't miss a chance at grabbing some kind of headlines. ANY headlines. This week, he jumped up saying he LIKED Viagra!! I'm so happy for both him and Liz but really, must he get on the "male potency" band wagon too? Atta Boy Bob! Way to go^ . Any old port in a storm right Bob? (Yeah, you'll make a lot of sense someday in the future. Go home Bob, Go home. Give the Country a break.

Now this week we'll take a look at the new center of controversy on the Hill. Its none other than Senator Orrin (The Hatchet) Hatch. This guy takes the cake. He made chair of the Senate's Judicial Committee and now he consistently tries to influence, rule and/or preside over Corporate America, Theological America, Philanthropic America and Politic America.

Cripes!! Why doesn't The Hatchet just come right out and say it: "I wanna be the newest Dictator, Head Control Freak, going into the New Millennium!!? There, I said it for hizzoner. It presses my patience to the limit to see The Hatchet attack Microsoft, The Executive Branch, The Legislative Branch and the General Electorate at will and seemingly get away with it. Does this goof wield THAT much power?

Here's a SENATOR whose BIAS is obviously so brazenly bold that people are becoming accustomed to his nonsense. Well, I'm not, nor should you or anybody else allow themselves to be "numbed" by his goofy actions. Hatch should and must be dealt with at the election polls. He must, along with the other control freaks, be sent a resoundingly loud and clear message of "Hands Off where you know absolutely nothing of what you speak." Send this goof HOME where he belongs!

Why is it he has absolutely NOTHING to say about Novell's heavy hand in the Networking world? Why is it he has yet to say anything about the manner in which Word Perfect Corp. did business in the computing community? Because, BOTH companies are from Utah, HIS HOME STATE!! That's why.

Somewhere it was said what does all this have to do with computing? Well, dearies it has a bunch to do with computing and the future of computing. You see, from the persecution of the President to the hounding of Microsoft there are so many of the same names. For example Hatch, Gingrich, Burton, to name a few, folks these birds are all militantly obvious Republicans out to sink the Democratic Administration any way they can. If they succeed in one area, say Clinton, then you can bet they'll get their way in the Microsoft matter. Think about it. Look at Janet (Waco) Reno and the manner in which the wonderful Attorney General has made certain that Starr and Klien have done the right thing. In BOTH instances Her silence is all but deafening.

In the State of Florida, Attorney General Bob Butterworth is also contemplating "action" against Microsoft. I called and spoke to their media section and I must admit the gent I spoke to was up on his current events. I spoke to a J. Bizzaro.

I asked pointedly if they had any idea of the affect both immediate and long term any actions to delay Win98 would have on the economy of Florida and the Nation? He said they have been made very well aware of the possibilities. He continually emphasized that the AG's office was still only contemplating action and had not done anything yet.

Believe me folks, I made it abundantly clear that any delay of Win98 would adversely affect small businesses involved in both hardware and software sales throughout the State. Again, Mr. Bizzaro made it clear "nothing had been done as of yet".

I then offered the thought; this was an extremely un-wise move on Butterworth's part since it is an election year and he is seeking re-election. I hope Butterworth wasn't thinking that any action taken against Microsoft on his part would help or enhance his re-election chances. I added. Additionally, I stated that any politician who did take part in this hounding of Microsoft would long be remembered if such actions were successful but ultimately, the economy took a beating.

Political Suicide is exactly what I called it.

Agree? - Disagree? Let us know drop us a line or two at rmariano@streport.com

ANOTHER LOOK AT TODAY'S EVENTS

WILL CHASE NOW BE GOING FOR CLINTON'S THROAT??

Shares of Mellon BankCorp. jumped late Wednesday on speculation that Chase Manhattan Corp. is preparing to bid for the bank, which just turned down a takeover offer from Bank of New York Co. "The rumor is that Mellon is talking to Chase and that Chase is getting ready to make a bid," said James Schutz, an analyst at ABN AMRO. Mellon, which rejected a \$24 billion merger proposal from Bank of New York citing different business philosophies, declined to comment on rumors or speculation.

BURTON BUSY DEFENDING TAPES

Congressman Dan Burton said Sunday he will release full transcripts of 54 taped jailhouse conversations made by ex-Clinton confidant Webster Hubbell. Burton, chairman of the House Government Reform and Oversight Committee, said "tomorrow we will release the entirety of the 54 conversations from which we previously made public only extracts. I believe this is once and for all put the lie to any accusations of 'editing,' 'doctoring,' or 'out of context quotation.'" Portions of the tapes and 27 pages of transcripts from the 1996 conversations were released last week by Burton. They amounted to about one hour's worth out of the approximately 150 hours total on the tapes.

REP. BURTON ENDS EFFORT TO WIN WITNESSES' IMMUNITY

Rep. Dan Burton, in hot water for calling the president a "scumbag" and releasing edited versions of Webster Hubbell's prison conversations, gave up Tuesday trying to get the committee he chairs to grant immunity to witnesses in a campaign fund-raising probe. Burton canceled a House Government Reform and Oversight Committee meeting scheduled for Wednesday after committee Democrats, who voted unanimously last week to oppose immunity for four potential witnesses, said they would block it again. A committee spokesman said the issue would be turned over to the House Oversight Committee, which has a two-thirds Republican majority, the number needed to approve witness immunity.

HATCH GRANDSTANDING AGAIN!

The head of the Senate Judiciary Committee predicted Sunday another independent counsel will soon be named to investigate President Clinton, this time over alleged campaign finance abuses. Panel chairman Orrin Hatch said on Fox News Sunday Attorney General Janet Reno may soon have no choice but to seek a new special prosecutor because of what he implied may be new evidence of wrongdoing. Clinton allies meanwhile urged Reno to consider firing Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr on grounds his investigation of the Clintons' Whitewater real estate tangle and related matters was out of control.

THE POT CALLING THE KETTLE NAMES!

More than a dozen Democrats walked out on House Speaker Newt Gingrich Thursday when he said President Clinton was not above the law during a speech before the New Hampshire legislature. Gingrich accused the

president's longtime friend Webster Hubbell, indicted last week on tax evasion charges, of criminal acts when a handful of the 424 legislators stood up and left. "People can walk out, but what I'm saying is a fact about a crime," Gingrich said as the heavily Republican House and Senate membership erupted in applause. Gingrich defended his speech, saying voters deserve to know the facts of the case.

BOB DOLE CALLS VIAGRA 'GREAT DRUG'

Former presidential candidate Bob Dole said Thursday he participated in tests of the new wonder drug for impotence, Viagra, after winning his battle against prostate cancer. "It's a great drug. I wish I'd ... bought stock earlier," Dole said on CNN's "Larry King Live," referring to sharp gains in the stock price of the drug's manufacturer, Pfizer Pharmaceuticals after the FDA approval. The Food and Drug Administration approved Viagra in March after tests on more than 3,000 men showed the drug could help impotence associated with diabetes, spinal cord injuries and prostate surgery. Dole told CNN he was in the drugmakers' "protocol" to test Viagra. "I think it's an effective drug," the former Senate majority leader said.

D'AMATO FINALLY DOES SOMETHING WORTHWHILE

The Senate approved legislation Friday to create a presidential advisory commission to look into whether any Holocaust-era assets were located in the U.S. The commission will research the collection and disposition of Holocaust-era assets in the U.S. from 1933 to 1945. "We need to know what art, gold, jewelry, bank accounts and other valuables were taken from Holocaust victims and ended up in the U.S.," said Senate Banking Committee Chairman Alfonse D'Amato. The legislation requires the commission to issue its final report by Dec. 31, 1999. D'Amato has led a campaign to press Swiss banks to search records for Holocaust assets.

U.S. PHONE CO. GIVES CABLE NETS HIGH-SPEED WEB ACCESS

Frontier Corp. planned to unveil Tuesday at a cable industry trade show a system that allows cable TV companies to deliver high-speed Internet access without making costly upgrades to their cable networks. In an ironic twist, the system is using existing standard phone lines to provide a crucial link that has previously prevented many cable operators from offering Internet access. The system allows cable TV companies to deliver Internet access via existing one-way cable networks into customer homes while relying on standard phone lines to transmit data from customer homes to the outside world.

DUTCH WANT INTERNATIONAL TAX ON INTERNET TRADING

The Dutch government is seeking international tax agreements to regulate trading through electronic media such as the internet, Junior Finance Minister Willem Vermeend said in a letter to Parliament on Tuesday. "The emerging 'internet economy' will have an indisputable effect on the (Dutch) tax system and on levying taxes," Vermeend said, adding that this could have budgetary consequences for the Netherlands in the longer term. The Dutch tax system should be adjusted to react on new developments in information and communication technology (ICT) but the Dutch should also look abroad. "International agreements are necessary regarding levying taxes on turnover and profits made through electronic commerce,"

Vermeend said.

DIGITAL'S ALTAVISTA GOES MULTI-LINGUAL

Digital Equipment Corp. said it has introduced an internet search engine which supports one-step searching across the entire Web in a variety of languages, among them Chinese, Japanese and Korean. Digital said in a statement that its AltaVista World Index was unlike other search engines because it was not limited to those that use a standard Western encoding known as ISO-Latin-1. The company said about 30% of the Web was written in languages other than English, and much of that 30% was in Chinese, Japanese or Korean. The system also allows users to search for Central European, Cyrillic, Greek, Hebrew, Arabic, Turkish and other languages from one location, Digital said.

CIA SAYS MANY UNPREPARED FOR MILLENNIUM GLITCH

Many countries appear ill prepared for the disruption to basic services that the Year 2000 computer glitch may cause, the head of the CIA office studying the issue said Tuesday. "We're concerned about the potential disruption of power grids, telecommunications and banking services" among other possible fallout, especially in countries already torn by political tensions, Sherry Burns said. She said CIA systems engineers and intelligence analysts were focusing beyond the technical problem of reprogramming computers to recognize dates when the Millennium dawns on Jan. 1, 2000.

WEB SITE OPENS FOR INTERNATIONAL DISSIDENT AUTHORS

The banned or censored words of five dissidents from China, Kenya, Algeria, Cuba and Cameroon were the first to be posted Tuesday on a new web site displaying the works of political activists. The web site www.dfn.org is published by the Digital Freedom Network, an international partnership founded in the New York area to fight censorship and protect human rights. "By putting banned or restricted material on our site we give dissidents a powerful, effective way to communicate with people around the world," the group's executive director Bobson Wong said. He said the collection of speeches, newspaper articles, essays, poetry and letters written from prison would include material from 17 countries.

COMPAQ TO CUT 15,000 DIGITAL JOBS, TAKE CHARGE

Compaq Computer Corp. will lay off about 15,000 Digital Equipment Corp. employees and take a charge of up to \$2 billion as a result of its \$9.6 billion takeover of the computer hardware company, a source said. The cuts represent about 27% of the 54,000 employees at Digital, which has reduced its staff from a high of 127,000 in the late 1980s as it struggled for profit. Digital employees have anticipated the cuts for months and resumes have been flooding Boston-area computer companies, analysts said. Many Digital employees do not want to make the move to Houston, home of Compaq. The combined company will create a high-tech superpower with sales of nearly \$38 billion. That rivals Hewlett-Packard Co's No. 2 ranking in the industry behind IBM Corp.

APPLE UNVEILS "JETSONS"-LIKEMAC FOR \$1,299

Apple Computer Inc. unveiled a \$1,299 "Jetsons"-like computer aimed at consumers called the iMac, in a bid to regain its lost position in the consumer market. Apple also introduced a new line of sleek, black PowerBook notebook computers designed around its powerful G3 microprocessor, starting at \$2,299 and available now. The iMac - in a dual-toned aqua and clear plastic enclosure, with a carrying handle at the top - is an all-in-one system, with only an external keyboard, and a built-in 15-inch monitor. The computer, which will be available in 90 days, has a 233 megahertz PowerPC chip and comes with 32 megabytes of memory, a 4-gigabyte hard drive, a built-in CD-ROM drive and built-in speakers. It does not have a floppy drive.

IBM TO LAUNCH NEW MAINFRAME

IBM Corp. will announce later Thursday the fifth generation in its microprocessor-based mainframe family, delivering ahead of schedule a system more powerful than the company had promised. The new mainframe family, called the S/390 G5 - the G5 stands for fifth generation - doubles the performance of IBM's previous G4 models launched last June, achieving performance of up to 900 million instructions per second (MIPS) when configured with 10 microprocessors. Analysts said the new systems represent a significant boost for IBM's competitive position against its two main competitors in the mainframe business, Hitachi Ltd. and Fujitsu Ltd. unit Amdahl Corp.

CALIF. ELECTRONIC TRADE GROUP HAS FIRST MEETING

California Gov. Pete Wilson used a mouse Thursday to buy a Mickey Mouse toy over the Internet in a show of support for the state's flourishing electronic commerce industry. Wilson, who bought the crawling "Baby Mickey" from the Internet toy store eToys, told a group of Silicon Valley executives he was committed to policies that would "encourage rather than inhibit electronic commerce," even if it meant lost tax revenues in the short term. "We don't want to have any practices in which the government inhibits what we think has enormous potential. I think it is important that the government be an ally," he told the Electronic Commerce Advisory Council.

N.C. POLITICIAN SPAMS VOTERS

Why stump when you can spam? A North Carolina judge, seeking the Democratic nomination for the state Supreme Court, indiscriminately sent an e-mail message to every Internet address his campaign could get its hands on this week, an online practice known as spamming. The political spam was spread from Internet address bettergov+foru.com that was set up not to take return mail - a staple of spamming. It landed at e-mail addresses as North Carolina voters prepared to go to the polls for party primaries Tuesday. Martin won't say who sent the e-mail or what computer it was sent from, but state elections officials fielded complaints from voters across the state and across the country.

Rumor Monger Drudge at IT Again!

JUSTICE READY TO SOCK GATES, MOVE COULD SPLIT UP COMPANY

BUSINESS WEEK is set to report that the Justice Department is planning to launch an expansive antitrust action against MSFT -- within days, the DRUDGE REPORT has learned. The report will be published in Friday's BW and posted on the magazine's web and AOL sites. The magazine reveals that the agency wants to pounce by May 15, the date on which the software giant is scheduled to start shipping the Windows 98 operating system to PC makers! Sources familiar with the Justice Department case have laid out a detailed plan of attack against the software giant for BUSINESS WEEK. Barring a last minute settlement -- Gates, Justice Department antitrust chief Klein and top members of their legal did meet Tuesday night at an undisclosed location in Washington -- Justice will charge MSFT with using illegal means to protect its monopoly in PC operating systems and extend its monopoly power into other markets. The Feds are prepared to launch a quick court action to force MSFT to alter Windows 98, which includes a version of the company's Internet browser, BW reports. They want to force MSFT to offer a browser-less version of Windows 98 that would be sold at "a commercially reasonable price" -- meaning less than the version with the browser. Justice is also toying with several possible ways to remove the browser. Up until now, BW reports, Justice Department officials predicted they would not seek a breakup of MSFT. But they now concede that could be the end result if the court concludes splitting up the company is the best solution.

INTEL TOO!

In a *separate* story, red-hot BUSINESS WEEK will also reveal that the Federal Trade Commission is prepared to take on the other half of the Information Age duopoly -- INTEL! The magazine will report that by the end of June, the FTC staff plans to file a suit against INTEL to weaken what it believes is a monopoly hold, similar to MSFT's, over a crucial segment of the Nation's high-tech industry. BW says the FTC plans to focus on several of INTEL's business practices, including forcing customer loyalty by withholding chip supply or information on future products from companies that don't use INTEL chips exclusively...

WINDOWS 98 IS POISED FOR MANUFACTURING

LAS VEGAS -- Despite threats from some state attorneys general to stop the shipment of Windows 98, Microsoft senior vice president Jim Allchin said the company is poised to put the product into manufacturing in only nine days. At a keynote address here in Las Vegas at NetWorld+Interop, Allchin said Win 98 will be going to manufacturing May 15 and will hit stores June 25.

Allchin's comments came after U.S. Department of Justice officials confirmed Wednesday morning the agency's top antitrust attorney, Joel Klein, met with Microsoft (company profile) chairman Bill Gates for more than two hours Tuesday night. A spokesperson for the Justice Department said Gates requested the meeting. Sources said Gates said Microsoft is not

a monopoly, and any attempt to prevent or delay the shipment of Win 98 would be harmful both to the computer and software industries as well as to the overall economy.

Demonstrated was Chrome, Microsoft's high-end 3-D rendering technology that will be included in both Win 98 and Win NT 5.0. Chrome is able to do 3-D rendering of websites on a PC. While no definitive time frame for a Win NT 5.0 release was given, he said Microsoft is "working hard" to deliver beta 2 of NT 5.0 to the market by early summer.

He also said the Redmond, WA-based Microsoft was working on an embedded version of Win NT and that Microsoft's BackOffice suite will be revved up to take advantage of NT 5.0 and released shortly after NT 5.0. Microsoft said it hopes to ship NT 5.0 this year. However, a number of industry executives have speculated that the operating system will not ship until the first quarter next year. On the 64-bit Win NT front, he also stated Microsoft has successfully booted 64-bit NT on Alpha and on a Merced simulator and "was making good progress."

SQL Server 7.0 and System Management Server will be available later this year. Microsoft announced here at N+I that MCIS 2.0 was in beta and that Win NT Services will be in beta this summer. Addressing Wednesday's business climate, Allchin said value-added resellers and IT managers are grappling with budget pressures and the incredible growth of connected Internet nodes. Allchin also previewed some of the storage hierarchical management capabilities in Win NT 5.0. Furthermore, he demonstrated NetShow and the ability to synchronize audio and video. Allchin also demonstrated the capabilities of Win NT 5.0's Active Directory Manager as a means to lower the total cost of PC ownership.

The World's Best-Selling...
Professional Image-Editing Software
Just Got Better!

San Jose, Calif. (April 26, 1998) (Nasdaq:ADBE) - The world's best-selling professional image-editing software will be available next month in its most powerful version ever with new tools to unleash the talents of inventive and creative users of Adobe Photoshop software.

Key new features in Photoshop 5.0 such as the;

- * History Palette
- * Editable Text Layers
- * Spot-Color Channels
- * Color Management support make it easier for users to focus their creativity on their designs.

"Customer input has played a major role in shaping the Photoshop 5.0 release," said John Leddy, Photoshop group product manager. "In addition to answering our customers' top requests, we've added a wealth of powerful features that address the full range of Photoshop uses-from color correction to photo-composition and from print production to Web design.

Users will gain more freedom to experiment, more predictable results, and more saved time."

Freedom to Experiment

The addition of the History Palette satisfies one of users' top requests, the ability to undo multiple steps with a single click. Katrin Eismann, a photographer and author in Los Angeles, thinks the History Palette is "brilliant." "It's as if someone is taking notes of my work in progress," says Eismann. "Since the History Palette tracks every step of my work, I feel more relaxed and try out more new ideas. If I decide I like what I did 10 minutes ago better, I click on that step and I'm back there."

Photoshop 5.0 software also offers an innovative History Brush that allows users to seamlessly combine different versions of the same image. The History Brush enables customers to create unique designs that incorporate the best elements from both images.

Saves Time

Other practical new features of Photoshop 5.0 include timesaving Magnetic Selection Tools. The Magnetic Lasso makes it a breeze to trace the outline of even the most intricate objects. "Today, for example, I'm leaving on a shoot for an Italian fashion magazine," says Douglas Kirkland, a fashion and celebrity photographer whose work includes photographs of celebrities from Marilyn Monroe to Leonardo DiCaprio. "With the magnetic lasso I know I can finish this project in three days instead of four. It is an amazing tool and it saves a phenomenal amount of time."

Web and print designers will appreciate the new Layer Effects feature in Photoshop 5.0 which automates the creation of formerly time-consuming effects such as shadows, glows, and bevels. Now, these effects can be attached to any layer with a few mouse clicks, after which they remain "live." The effects regenerate themselves automatically any time the layer is edited.

Predictable, Professional Results

Color management has challenged many creative professionals who require color consistency across hardware and for output of their designs. Photoshop 5.0 software helps resolve this issue by complementing its existing color management engine with full support for industry-standard ICC profiles. Users can now choose the color management workflow they prefer, or they can even integrate different approaches. The result is more consistent color from input through output.

Precision and Control

Editable Type with Character Level Formatting is one of many new features that give Adobe users even greater precision and control during the editing process. Users have complete control to flow text horizontally or vertically, to mix multiple typefaces, and to adjust size, kerning, baseline, and tracking. Best of all, the new Type Tools create special type layers that retain their formatting characteristics and can be edited at any time.

This newest release reinforces Photoshop as an indispensable tool for a

broad range of users. Ben Willmore, CEO of Digital Mastery in Boulder, Colorado, has taught everyone from corporations to government agencies to Hollywood film studios how Adobe software can help their bottom line. "I tell companies, if you're not using Photoshop to create your documents you're wasting time and money," says Willmore. Too many firms, he says, pay high fees for others to do their scans, color corrections, retouching and image compositing. Says Willmore: "Photoshop 5.0 has become so refined and has so many time-saving features that tasks that once required five production people can now be done by one person."

Adobe Photoshop 5.0 for Windows also includes the FotoExplorer_ software from FotoNation Inc. which makes bringing images into Adobe Photoshop from some popular digital cameras as easy as accessing files from a desktop folder.

Since Adobe introduced Photoshop software in 1989, growth in digital imaging has exploded. Sales of digital cameras are expected to increase six-fold within two years, and Eastman Kodak Co. estimates that of the 72 billion photographs taken each year worldwide, between 20 to 40 percent will be processed digitally by the year 2000, driving even greater demand for image editing tools.

In addition to millions of new users, the range of people and purposes for which they use Photoshop is now more varied than ever. Photoshop 5.0 strengthens Adobe's extensive portfolio of digital imaging products for creative professionals, business customers, and home users. Whether for work with images on the Web, in print, in video, at home, or in the office, Adobe has the solution.

Pricing and Availability

Photoshop 5.0, priced at \$995, is expected to ship in May. Photoshop users will be able to upgrade for an introductory price of \$199.

About Adobe Systems Incorporated

Based in San Jose, Calif., Adobe Systems Incorporated develops and supports products to help people express and use information in more imaginative and meaningful ways, across all print and electronic media. Founded in 1982, Adobe helped launch the desktop publishing revolution. Today, the company offers a market-leading line of application software and type products for creating and distributing visually rich communication materials; licenses its industry-standard technologies to major hardware manufacturers, software developers, and service providers; and offers integrated software solutions to businesses of all sizes. For more information, see Adobe's home page at <http://www.adobe.com> on the World Wide Web.

Special Notice!! STR Infofile File format for Articles

File Format for STReport

All articles submitted to STReport for publication must be sent in the following format. Please use the format requested. Any files received that

do not conform will not be used. The article must be in an importable word processor format for Word 6.0 and/or Word Perfect 7. The margins are .05" left and 1.0" Monospaced fonts are not to be used. Please use proportional fonting only and at Twelve (12) points.

- * No Indenting on any paragraphs!!
- * No Indenting of any lines or "special gimmicks"
- * No underlining!
- * Columns shall be achieved through the use of tabs only. Or, columns in Word or Word Perfect format. Do NOT, under any circumstances, use the space bar.
- * Most of all. PLEASE! No ASCII "ART"!!
- * There is no limits as to size, articles may be split into two if lengthy
- * Actual Artwork should be in GIF, PCX, JPG, TIF, BMP, WMF file formats

- * Artwork (pictures, graphs, charts, etc.) should be sent along with the article separately
- * Please use a single font in an article. TTF Times New Roman 12pt. is preferred. (VERY Strong Hint)

If there are any questions please use either E-Mail or call. On another note the ASCII version of STReport has reached the "end of the line" As the major Online Services moved away from ASCII^ . So has STReport. All in the name of progress and improved readability. The amount of reader mail expressing a preference for HTML as opposed to our Adobe PDF enhanced issue is running approximately 11 to 1 over the PDF edition. Cited are size, graphic quality and speed of download. I'm elated that requests for our issues in HTML far outnumber PDF. So PDF too, like ascii, is gone. HTML is now a reality. On our web download page is a selection for HTML (Read or Download). As you can see, STReport will not be caught in the old, worn out "downward compatibility dodge" we must move forward.

Many grateful thanks in advance for your enthusiastic co-operation and input.

Ralph F. Mariano, Editor
rmariano@streport.com
STReport International Online Magazine

Classics & Gaming Section
Editor Dana P. Jacobson
dpj@streport.com

> From the Atari Editor's Desk "Saying it like it is!"
"*****"

Another week blows by.... What a terrible week, weather-wise. Rainy, dark and gloomy. What happened to Spring?

I know that I've been saying that I've needed more time to do other things

in my life - 'tis true. One of the things I've been spending a lot of time doing is working in the yard. It's finally "clean". I must have put out in excess of a hundred bags of lawn refuse (leaves, pine needles, acorns, dead grass, tree branches, etc.) in the last month or so. This yard was a disaster, left over from the previous owner. I did some re-seeding in the front lawn (grass is actually starting to grow!) and put in some flowers (and most are still alive!). It's been fun. A little more gardening in the front and then I have to tackle the sides and back. Both really need some serious work, but I'm looking forward to it. And then I have to clean out the swimming pool. Hopefully I'll get back to inside the house and finish up some much-needed work in various areas.

Friends weren't kidding when they told us that owning a house means there will always be work to be done! But it is rewarding to see the results of your labor. I'm sure that many of you can relate. Then again, there are probably also many of you who feel that I'm full of what helped my new grass grow! <grin>

But back to STReport... I've been on the staff for almost ten years now. I started sometime before the WAACE show of 1989. It seems like an eternity, but I can also remember that show - my first ever Atari show. What an experience that was, as well as future shows. WAACE was really the turning point for me and my appreciation for Atari users. The camaraderie and fun times made it all worthwhile - I really miss those times. It's also a reason why it's so difficult to even consider limiting or ending my stint with STReport. We'll have to take it one day at a time and see how it all plays out. In the meantime, let's hear from another voice from Atari's past.

Until next time...

Gribnif Software's 10th Anniversary Sale
From: Dan Wilga <gribnif@pair.com>

Gribnif Software's 10th Anniversary Sale

It all started ten years ago with the release of NeoDesk 1.0, a program few even thought could be written. Since then, companies have come and gone, but we're still here providing software for Atari computers.

As a way of saying "Thank You" for ten wonderful years, we're offering special discounts of up to 50% on nearly all our major products, now through May 31! If you've put off buying Geneva or NeoDesk all these years, now is definitely the time to get it!

Here are just some of the special prices available:

- ** NeoDesk 4: The latest version of the original desktop replacement for Atari computers is now just \$35!
- ** Geneva: The multitasking application environment is now just \$35, as well
- ** XBoot III, the premier boot manager, is now \$30
- ** CardFile 4, the personal information manager, is \$20
- ** ...and we even have a few copies left of NeoDesk 3, for just \$10 each!

Prices listed do not include shipping. See <<http://www.pair.com/gribnif>> for more products and info.

Tel/Fax: 413-532-2434
Web: www.pair.com/gribnif
email: gribnif@pair.com

```
>Industry News STR Game Console NewsFile - The Latest Gaming News!
  ~~~~~
```

Enhanced Support for Nintendo N64, Sony PlayStation, VM Labs' Project X Announced with Debut of Innovative Prototype Program

"MultiGen is committed to delivering the world's best realtime 3D game authoring solutions for developers targeting every major game system," said Dave Rolston, president and CEO of MultiGen, Inc. "Today's announcements with Nintendo, Sony and VM Labs - as well as the debut of our Game Developer Prototype Program - underscore our desire to give developers the tools to breathe life into unforgettable new game experiences."

"Time is precious in game development," said Joan Wood, president of Mango Grits, developers of the interactive 3D flying action title, "Barrage." "MultiGen saves us time by enabling us to modify the artwork in its publishable state instead of going back to the original design software. Even prototype content can easily be used in the final title. As a result, we can focus our efforts on creating content."

MultiGen announced that its game authoring solutions will support Nintendo Systems, Inc.'s NIFF 2.0 (Nintendo Intermediary File Format), enabling Nintendo N64 game developers to quickly and easily enhance and customize 3D content with realtime capabilities. NIFF 2.0 allows N64 game developers to optimize content created with MultiGen's popular Creator game authoring solution for deployment within new Nintendo N64

titles.

NIFF 2.0 allows game developers to expand and build on the capabilities provided in the Nintendo development kit, by offering easier access to data elements such as animation, lighting and special effects. Developers can then extend or customize their games on an open platform by adding attributes and functionality offered by 3D authoring systems. With NIFF 2.0, N64 game developers will be able to take full advantage of the rich set of animation and graphical features found in Creator, MultiGen's realtime 3D authoring system and the first hierarchical realtime 3D modeler for Windows NT and Silicon Graphics workstations. As a result, Nintendo N64 game players benefit from spectacular 3D graphics that run faster and more efficiently.

MultiGen also announced that Creator will support Sony Computer Entertainment America, Inc.'s Hierarchical Modeling Data (HMD), a high-level graphics processing framework available under the PlayStation development environment. Sony's HMD gives PlayStation game developers more flexibility to create and prototype games, thereby speeding the development process and enabling the creation of a new generation of realtime 3D titles.

By supporting HMD, Creator accelerates the game authoring process so that designers and artists can effectively communicate their ideas. As a common language, HMD is fully convertible with plain text format and provides a smooth transition from formal file formats. The implementation of HMD is coupled tightly with the PlayStation hardware to provide a solid foundation to optimize performance related algorithms used in titles.

Also today, MultiGen announced that its popular game authoring tools and industry-standard OpenFlight visual database format will drive the development of revolutionary new video games for Project X, the next-generation video game platform developed by VM Labs. Already popular for creating 3D titles with immersive, realistic game environments, MultiGen's authoring tools will create game content compliant with the Project X platform, which is expected to be optimized for realtime 3D graphics.

The announcement extends MultiGen's expertise in realtime 3D authoring to Project X software developers by providing them with all the tools and resources necessary for optimizing a model or world for playback in realtime. The Project X video game console is scheduled for release Christmas 1998 from VM Labs. The Los Altos, Calif.-based game console company is currently developing the Project X kit, which comes Ethernet ready and equipped with a modem to allow Internet access, along with several other entertainment features.

MultiGen also unveiled its Game Developer Prototype Program, enabling start-up game developers to create a new generation of 3D hit titles with little or no overhead costs. The revolutionary program loans thousands of dollars in game authoring software at no cost to fledgling developers working on new titles.

MultiGen's Game Developer Prototype Program loans a limited number of developers free software and technical support, enabling them to quickly design and prototype new titles and more rapidly solicit funding from game publishers. Participants are under no obligation to purchase MultiGen software. Developers can apply for participation in MultiGen's Game Developer Prototype Program at <http://www.multigen.com>,

by sending email to prototypemultigen.com, or by phoning 408-261-4100.

Activision Sheds Light on N64 Plans

May 4, 1998 (MULTIMEDIA WIRE, Vol. 5, No. 85) -- Activision's decision to make public its plans for N64 before E3 was to intended keep retailers from being surprised at the show, Activision Senior VP of Marketing Eric Johnson tells MMWire.

Activision Friday said it will produce Quake II and Nightmare Creatures for N64, leaving GT Interactive as the only major console publisher holding out on developing for the platform -- Sony and Sega aside. GT plans to release seven PlayStation titles, but only one N64 title, Mike Piazza's Strikezone, in North America this year, an official says.

Activision's choice of proven titles is consistent with its conservatively late entrance onto N64.

"We wanted to put our best foot forward on the platform, [and Activision] expects to see success," Johnson says. To be a player this late in the hardware cycle, a publisher needs a high-quality game, a good brand and has to be willing to advertise on TV, he adds.

"Large publishers can't afford to ignore [N64]," Ian Berman of Frost & Berman says. For Christmas 1998, publishers can succeed on N64 with mediocre titles, so it "makes absolute sense" for Activision to bring Quake II and Nightmare Creatures out before Christmas, he says. For Christmas 1999, it is hard to tell, he adds.

Among other leading publishers, Eidos is understood to be at work on N64 titles. MMWire expects the company to bring Tomb Raider to the platform by Christmas. Even the notoriously conservative THQ is preparing for its second-generation N64 game this year.

Take-Two Interactive Software, Inc. Announces '4X4 Mud Monsters'

NEW YORK (May 5) BUSINESS WIRE - May 5, 1998 - Take-Two Interactive Software, Inc. announced today that it has signed an agreement with Gathering of Developers, Ltd. to co-publish and distribute 4X4 Mud Monsters. 4X4 Mud Monsters is being developed by Gathering of Developers partners Edge of Reality, Inc. and Terminal Reality Inc., exclusively for the Nintendo 64. Currently, 4X4 Mud Monsters is scheduled for release in the first quarter of 1999. 4X4 Mud Monsters is the first product to be developed and marketed by The Gathering exclusively for a console system. Additionally, Take-Two is the first corporate co-publishing and distribution partner The Gathering has chosen to work with.

4X4 Mud Monsters is a hard driving off-road truck simulation, which goes beyond real world practicalities. The product will take full advantage of the Nintendo 64's 3D graphics power and utilize a powerful new proprietary N64 engine developed by Edge of Reality's founder Rob Cohen, and based on Terminal Reality Inc.'s Photex 2 Engine for the PC. Terminal Reality is working closely with Edge of Reality to share their

proprietary engine technology, most recently featured in Microsoft, Inc.'s Monster Truck Madness 2 for the PC.

Mike Wilson, CEO of The Gathering, said, "Gathering of Developers, Terminal Reality and Edge of Reality are pleased to be working with Take-Two in the United States and Europe. They have embraced our business philosophy fully, and we are excited by their recent growth in the entertainment software publishing industry on both sides of the Atlantic.

Rob Cohen, President of Edge of Reality, Inc., said, "I have enjoyed working exclusively on the Nintendo 64 console over the past several years, and am thrilled to be able to apply my expertise on the system to a project as exciting as 4X4 Mud Monsters."

Russ Howard, Vice-President of Business Development, said, "Take-Two is pleased to be partnered with The Gathering, Edge of Reality, and Terminal Reality to bring 4X4 Mud Monsters to market exclusively for the Nintendo 64. Gathering of Developers has assembled a fantastic group of proven entertainment software industry talent, and Take-Two is excited to be their first corporate partner within the video game industry."

Tee Off with Hot Shots Golf -- the Arcade-Style Golf Game

FOSTER CITY, CALIF. (May 5) BUSINESS WIRE - May 5, 1998 - Sony Computer Entertainment America Inc. announced today that Japan's best selling arcade-style PlayStation golf videogame, Hot Shots Golf, will be available this May exclusively for the PlayStation game console.

Hot Shots Golf was created to be a fun playing videogame for all ages and skill levels, with an arcade-style presentation that captures the spirit and realism of golf.

"The beauty of Hot Shots Golf is that it's a fun game for anyone to pick up and play but more importantly, it's the most advanced golf engine ever developed," said Peter Dille, senior director, product marketing, Sony Computer Entertainment America. "That means the gameplay is flawless. We're getting more superlatives on Hot Shots Golf every day, from both the gaming press as well as the golfing community."

In fact, consider the following accolades:

- "Hot Shots Golf is the best looking and most fun-playing golf game of all time." - Paul Johnson, Sport Magazine
- "Playing Hot Shots Golf is like being on the golf course, with its great golf engine. This game is so much fun to play."
 - Mike Stinton, The Golf Channel
- "The graphics are so vivid it's like watching live golf on TV."
 - Dave Stevens, ESPN

One of the gameplay features that makes Hot Shot Golf a "stand out" in the golf category is the quick set-ups in between shots (no long load times) and fast responses to gameplay commands.

Hot Shots Golf provides gamers with six different play modes that

include Match Play, Stroke Play (where players can "bet" against their buddies), Tournament Mode, Training Mode, VS. Mode and a Hidden Bonus Mode. VS. Mode gives gamers the ability to play with new characters as they win more progressively-challenging matches, and gain experience points.

Another key feature in Hot Shots Golf is the Experience Level System, which rewards players with experience points for playing well. Earning experience points means players earn the right to play on other courses.

Hot Shots Golf Key Features:

- Gameplay designed to appeal to all ages and skill levels (not just hard-core gamers).
- Amazing colorful 3D graphics.
- Real physics: a realistic feel to the swing, the ball's flight trajectory, how the ball lands, weather conditions and sound effects. Seamless load time: quick set-ups in between shots and quick responses to swing commands.
- Six challenging and fun-to-play game modes: Match Play, Stroke Play (with a Bet Mode), Tournament Mode, Training Mode, VS Mode and a hidden Bonus Mode.
- Six golf courses
- Other features include: miniature golf course, computer-controlled caddie, ability to call your own shots by selecting your club, gauging your distance and picking your direction.
- Replay feature allows players to check out awesome shots and embarrassing blunders.
- Zooming camera to hone in on the hole.
- Up to 4 players.
- Multi tap compatible.

ONLINE WEEKLY STReport OnLine

The wires are a hummin'!

PEOPLE... ARE TALKING

Compiled by Joe Mirando
jmirando@streport.com

Hidi ho friends and neighbors. I'll tell you right from the start that this week's column is going to be on the short side. I somehow managed to pinch a nerve in my neck and it's kind of difficult to sit at the computer... even if it IS an Atari. <grin>

Before we get to the actual "meat" of the column, I'd like to tell you about something that happened to me the other day. I'm betting you'll think it's as cute as I did.

My sister had come over to pick up some information that I'd downloaded from the internet for her for a college class project. While she was here, she mentioned that she and her husband were going to buy a computer soon but had no idea of what to look for or look out

for, and what a fair price would be.

I excused myself for a few moments, fired up my trusty Atari, connected up to the internet, and accessed the website of one of the few PC manufactures I actually trust (Micron). Within five minutes I had a printed page listing all of the things that I thought they'd need in a computer, all the information they'd need to order, and all the technical jargon that wouldn't mean a thing to them anyway.

My sister looked at the page (price first, of course) and asked if this was the kind of computer that I had. Without explaining too much, I told her that it wasn't. She became somewhat suspicious and asked why I didn't recommend whatever it was that I was using for her and her husband. I told her that the computer that I used was no longer being manufactured and that the company itself had been run into the ground and sold off to someone who had no idea of what to do with it, who had recently sold it to Hasbro.

Now she was really suspicious. To her way of thinking, computer companies couldn't go out of business. The computer market is so robust right now that anyone making a computer simply HAD to be doing okay. Anything else would be... wrong. (Okay, okay, so my sister isn't the sharpest pencil in the box. That's neither here nor there <grin>)

Now marks the time I've started calling "The Computer Novice Renaissance". It used to be that people thought that you had to have a Ph.D. in computer science to operate a computer. Now non-users and novices think that ALL computers simply 'find a way' to do whatever it is that you want them to do. True, people who are more familiar with computers know better, but the novices still outnumber computer-literate people.

At any rate, I explained that my trusty TT required that I actually work to get something done. I couldn't simply click on the install button and run the same type of cutting-edge application that users of newer machines enjoy.

She thought for a moment and then said that I probably wouldn't 'enjoy' doing that anyway... but SHE would. I agreed. As I've said before, that's not necessarily a bad thing, but it does make a computer a tool and not a hobby. I don't know what I'd do if I had a computer that didn't require me to 'mess with it'. I'd probably either join the U.S. Postal Service or become a special prosecutor investigating the President...

"Hmmm... let's see. No clear evidence of wrong-doing while he was Governor. No clear evidence of his wife doing anything wrong... oh, except for this tape that I'm not supposed to have anyway. Oops, that's right, it was edited to cut out parts that said that she was on the straight-and-narrow. They'll find out about that eventually. I better not press that. Hey, there's that land deal that went bad. Aaahh, he was just an investor. He had nothing to do with the mechanics of it. Oh, there's that sex thing with the brunette from his home state. Nope. Her lawyers don't want to split the fees. What about that white house intern? Another tape? Darn. It's second-person hear-say, and not even about anything illegal. Well, I'll just have to milk this investigation for all I can. Meanwhile, I can keep taking big bucks through my law firm from some of the very tobacco companies that the president is trying to make things hard for..."

Hmmm... not even a mention of a computer in any of that. Guess I better bone up for the civil service exam. <grin>

Well, now that I've vented, let's take a look at what's happening on the Use Net.

From the comp.sys.atari.st NewsGroup
=====

Steve Stupple asks:

"Is it possible to have two DMA-SCSI adaptors running in parallel? e.g. one running my hard drive and another taking care of my CD-ROM drive?"

Nicholas Bales tells Steve:

"You shouldn't need that, since the SCSI architecture is a daisy chain, just start the chain with you SCSI adapter, then the HD to the adapter, and the CD-ROM to the HD. You end the chain with a SCSI terminator and you make sure the SCSI ID numbers are correct."

Carsten Krumnow tells Nicholas (and Steve):

"But it is possible though. For example when using to Megafire 44 drives (no sense in it, OK, but no problems with it). But it remains one SCSI system, so you are still limited to 8 devices."

Dr. Uwe Seimet (the author of HD Driver) adds:

"Basically this should be possible but you won't gain anything. A single adapter is sufficient to address all the devices."

He's right, but there have been times when I've had two or more hard drives in their own separate cases which each had host adaptors that I wanted to use. It works fine. It's un-necessary, but it works.

Our friend Dennis Bishop, who recently dropped his online service in favor of an ISP asks about MY favorite Email/FTP/UseNet reader... NEWSie:

"I have a question, WHY does Newsie put TWO e-mails together at the same time??? I notice this today, I had e-mail from to places that are NOT the same place and Newsie had attached one to the other and had broken up the 2nd one mid way and put it as a <No Subject> after the 1st one. What's up? Is there some kind of a setting I need to check?"

Roger Cain tells Dennis:

"Yes, I used to get this. Rarely (about 5%) but it's a nuisance. I'm trying to remember how I fixed it ummmmm

I think it turned out to be a problem with the comms. layers rather than Newsie. Newsie was being sent some duff characters which it interpreted as 'End of Message' and, at other times interpreted a corrupt 'EOM' as something else.

Have a careful look at bits of your comms system. You could try:

Check your modem settings in SERIAL.CPX. You have RTS/CTS do you? How

about the DTE rate? See if the problem goes away if you set it one notch lower.

Check HSMODEM settings. Are your buffers 2K-4K? All other flags as recommended? What do you use - DRIVIN + MFP?

Have faith - since I fixed it the problem has not re-occurred."

Charles Silver tells Dennis:

"Well, I don't think you have a NEWSie problem, necessarily. It sounds like STinG is dropping some packets which will cause all kinds of problems.

In the STinG Dialer(Statistics) check to see how many dropped packets your getting after an online usage. Check Modem 1 or 2 that your using. You mentioned before you had trouble sending large files with NEWSie. I've sent/received 2meg binaries with no problems. Your might try sending yourself 4 or 5 test messages to see what's what. Your Mail Box may have been corrupted.

I would upgrade to NEWSie v0.88 also. "EoF from Remote" can mean that you lost your news group feed, so you have to re-connect NEWSie to you host. It doesn't mean that STinG dropped your connection. Just re-connect NEWSie.

My best guess is that you don't have STinG optimized for your ISP."

The author of NEWSie, John Rojewski, tells Dennis:

"Check your timeout values, I use about 20 seconds for Last Char and 30 seconds for Max Timeout. Sometimes there can be malformed emails, but that is pretty rare..."

Oh, what the heck, let's make this "NEWSie Week". Alyre Chiasson posts:

"I am running Newsie .88 and have run into the problem that despite having the remove mail from server option checked my mail is not removed from the server. Every few weeks I have to call to have them flush my inbox, which they have been kind enough to do so far. Does anyone else have this problem? Any suggestions? I suspect my ISP has changed his software, the problem wasn't there several weeks ago. Is there anything I can ask my ISP provider to do or switch to as far as a mail protocol? The problem was there when I was using a Slip account and also there now that I am using Sting and a PPP account. I have a MegaSte 4."

Terry May tells Alyre:

"I don't know what you can do with NEWSie, but you should be able to remove the mail yourself with POPwatch. A simple Control-A to select all files, followed by Delete will delete all the mail in your server's mail box."

**By the way folks, I just started using POPWatch and I like it a lot. I'd like it a lot more if it worked correctly under Geneva though.

Charles Silver echoes my own thoughts:

"Well, I don't have that problem with NEWSie, but I always use

POPWatch to preview e-mail as it has a very good killfile/delete. For me, I think the NEWSie/POPWatch is a *very* good combo as they both have very good features. Highly recommended..."

Peter Smith asks about MagiC:

"My Atari ST is still used every day in my business. I have programmed a nice database out of Superbase. I have a series of Auto-folder programs (LGSelect, QuickST, Cache, RamBuffer, etc) which make things a bit easier, but this Magic OS sounds interesting ...
What is it like, what can it do, and where can i get it ?"

Ian Norton tells Peter:

"Well magic is probably the best and most used thing I have ever bought (except my falcon). It is a pre-emptive multitasking operating system (as stable as windows NT).

The up side of having magic is that all your gem based stuff should (90% of) still works, although DSASE One doesn't work, I'm not sure about super base.

Also and by far the best bit is that your programs will run much faster than normal as the OS is optimised in assembler, It will run from floppy disk but you really need a hard disk, you also really need 4mb of RAM on an ST and if you have a falcon you will after a month or three be craving for 14mb.

Magic is very easy to get going but is sadly incompatible with some really cool autos and accs like mouse ka mania but it was well worth the 60.00 uk pounds that I paid for it!"

Well folks, that's about it for this week. I'm going to go rub some of that nasty smelling salve on my neck in the hopes that it will drive away whatever demon is kicking my vertebrae this time. Tune in again next week, same time, same station, and be ready to listen to what they are saying when...

PEOPLE ARE TALKING

EDITORIAL QUICKIES

Lesser Primate Committee Thinking Experiment

Start with a cage containing five apes. In the cage, hang a banana on a string and put stairs under it.

Before long, an ape will go to the stairs and start to climb towards the Banana, but as soon as he touches the stairs, spray all of the apes with cold water.

After a while, another ape makes an attempt with the same result... ...all the apes are sprayed with cold water.

Turn off the cold water. If, later, another ape tries to climb the stairs... the other apes will try to prevent it even though no water sprays them.

Now, remove one ape from the cage and replace it with a new one. The new ape sees the banana and wants to climb the stairs. To his horror, all of the other apes attack him.

After another attempt and attack, he knows that if he tries to climb the stairs, he will be assaulted.

Next, remove another of the original five apes and replace it with a new one. The newcomer goes to the stairs and is attacked. The previous Newcomer takes part in the punishment with enthusiasm.

Again, replace a third original ape with a new one.

The new one makes it to the stairs and is attacked as well.

Two of the four apes that beat him have no idea why they were not permitted to climb the stairs, or why they are participating in the beating of the newest ape.

After replacing the fourth and fifth original apes, all the apes which have been sprayed with cold water have been replaced.

Nevertheless, no ape ever again approaches the stairs. Why not?

<Because that's the way it's always been around here>

Sound familiar?

.....Thanks Binky, for another good one.

STReport International Magazine
ICQ#:1170279
[S]ilicon [T]imes [R]eport
[HTTP://WWW.STREPORT.COM](http://WWW.STREPORT.COM)
Every Week; OVER 850,000 Readers WORLDWIDE

All Items quoted, in whole or in part, are done so under the provisions of The Fair Use Law of The Copyright Laws of the U.S.A. Views, Opinions and Editorial Articles presented herein are not necessarily those of the editors/staff of STReport International Magazine. Permission to reprint articles is hereby granted, unless otherwise noted. Reprints must, without exception, include the name of the publication, date, issue number and the author's name. STR, CPU, STReport and/or portions therein may not be edited, used, duplicated or transmitted in any way without priorwritten permission. STR, CPU, STReport, at the time of publication, is believed reasonablyaccurate. STR, CPU, STReport, are trademarks of STReport and STR Publishing Inc. STR, CPU,STReport, its staff and contributors are not and cannot be held responsible in any way for the use or misuse of information contained herein or the results obtained therefrom.

STReport "YOUR INDEPENDENT NEWS SOURCE" May 08, 1998
Since 1987 Copyrightâ 1998 All Rights Reserved Issue No. 1418